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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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By Armand N. Nocum

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 • 32 pages / vol. 19 / no. 280

Police crush FPJ rally

TODAY'S the time: Fleeing his election campaign sign, presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. (inset) supporters near the Quezon City Rotonda after the dispersal.

Protesters say it was worse than martial law

By Tina Santos and Leila B. Salaverria

ANTIRIOT police yesterday used truncheons, water cannons and tear gas to disperse groups, including supporters of defeated candidate Fernando Poe Jr., who were protesting the election victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Police officials said they had to disperse but no case lesser against those trapped in the boundary of Quezon City and Manila because a number had begun throwing stones and bottles at the lawmen.

But Poe's supporters denied this, saying that those who threw stones and bottles were not part of their ranks and were probably infiltrators who wanted to discredit them.

"We have no intention of causing violence. Till (Poe) told us to respect the rule of law, and that is what we are doing. It is the police who dispersed us," a protester told the Inquirer, adding that the stones used on them smelled bad.

At around 2 p.m., some 1,000 Poe supporters began to converge on at least four areas—Espeña and Blumentritt streets in Manila and the Makinley (formerly Welcome) Rotonda and Sto. Domin-

THE 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, takes her oath today at high noon before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. at the Cebu Provincial Capitol in Cebu City. Her 30-minute inaugural address will detail on the theme of governance and unity.

Who's going to unite, lead the opposition?

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo starting a fresh six-year term, the search is on for an alternative leader to galvanize the opposition and serve as a check to her administration's side.

Taclan Rep. Gilbert Teodoro said that for the moment, there was no leader to whom all opposition forces were likely to gravitate. But he said there would be one midway through this administration, "with the next elections in sight."

"Whether a singular leader will emerge or the opposi-

Stray dogs are out, roses in for GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila and Connie E. Fernandez PDI Visayas bureau

ARREST "blanket security" and thousands of orange and crimson roses greeted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when her oath today as the country's 14th president.

Police are taking no chances.

To ensure that today's inauguration of President Macapagal goes off smoothly, police have the area "security blanket" around all of Cebu City, placed roads under watch, sealed off the main avenues—and even taken stray dogs off the streets.

"We have not received any threats but we are not taking any chances," said Supt. Augusto Marquez Jr., operations chief of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7).

At least 7,000 military and police personnel are involved in the security operation for the historic oath taking of Mrs Macapagal in the city—the only time in the country's history that an elected president would formally assume office in provinces outside Manila.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Garcia, PRO-7 director and head of Task Force Ri-

RIOT police use the full force of dispersal devices at their disposal—truncheons, water cannons, tear gas—to break up the rally of what already-riled supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. Tuesday at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City in protest of the alleged fraudulent election of President Macapagal.

Pinoy artist paints Indon political bets

RECYCLED SPLENDOR

Cops finally file complaint vs Jaworski, Yap scions

By Christian V. Esguerra and Lolgo A. del Puerto

NINE days after the Greenhills shootout, police finally filed a formal complaint against two scions of wealthy families involved in gunplay that had raised questions about the local's ability to deal with the rich.

The problem is the case may be doomed if no witnesses come forward to testify. Mandaluyong police chief Senior Supt. Eric Velasquez told the Inquirer after filing the complaint yesterday in the city prosecutor's office.

Named in the complaint were Ryan Joseph Jaworski, 20, Angela Jill Yap, 14, and several John Does, Velasquez said.

Ryan is the son of outgoing Sen. Robert Jaworski Jr., and Elbon the son of businessman Tony Yap.

The charges recommended by police were for illegal discharge of firearms, alarm and scandal, damage to property and malicious mischief, based on the sworn statements of three witnesses, Velasquez said.

The filing of the complaint—which will be investigated by prosecutors to determine if formal charges could be lodged in court—came amid public pressure for the police to outdoor the law enforcers who were involved.

But the cases might not prosper unless more witnesses surfaced and both parties themselves pressed charges, Velasquez pointed out.

"We could have filed charges long ago, but they would have just been dismissed for lack of enough evidence

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004
Second FRONTPAGE

JI foiled in terror bomb plot

Rains threaten GMA party

By Veh Cantemprate and Margaux C. Ordo

THIS IS one rain from heaven that Malacañang definitely does not welcome.

Barring sudden changes in the weather conditions, rains could spoil President Macapagal-Arroyo's scheduled inaugural dive today in Manila and Cebu.

The weather bureau yesterday said that both cities will be cloudy today with rain showers and thunderstorms due to the effects of easterly tropical storm Igme.

Thus, it is likely that Ms Macapagal will be celebrating huge observing rounds in Manila and Cebu under a canopy of umbrellas.

The Philippine atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that both Manila and Cebu are in the path of strong to monsoon winds blowing from the southwest.

As of yesterday afternoon, Storm Signal No. 1 was still in effect over Aklan, Capiz, Antique and Iloilo provinces.

Signal No. 2 was in effect in Catanduanes, Albay, Mt. Province, Ifugao, the Ilocos provinces, Abra, Benguet and La Union. Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan and Cebuang Islands were placed under Signal No. 1.

Typhoon Igme should be about 120 km southwest of the Buhai island group by 5 p.m. today, Pagasa said.

Its wind was packing speeds of up to 120 kph near the center and gusts of up to 150 kph.

Pagasa said Igme was moving northwest at 15 kph

LIVIA GLAUSONA

YORIKO KAWAGUCHI

CHEUN HEE

WOMEN VIPS IN GMA INAUGURAL

Among the women attending today's inauguration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are the the representatives of the Czech Republic, Japan and South Korea. They are Livia Klausova, First Lady of the Czech Republic and a well-known economist; Yoriko Kawaguchi, the Japanese foreign minister; and Chiem Hee, South Korean minister for gender equity.

Former nun tagged in slay plot vs JDV

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday tagged opposition leader Linda Montayre as one of the masterminds behind an alleged plot to assassinate Speaker Jose De Venecia, plant bombs around Metro Manila, and overthrow the government.

Montayre, secretary general of the People's Consultative Assembly coordinated with former police Senior Inspector Roberto Camarine, another leader in the alleged plot who had confessed to the authorities, in hatching the alleged rebellion, Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said in a press conference yesterday.

The DOJ was set to issue a subpoena to Montayre, a former nun, in order could answer the accusations against her.

"According to [Camarine's] affidavit, she's the mastermind," Gutierrez said, adding: "Camarine was in touch and in contact with Linda Montayre. He received calls from her."

Joker suspects

The NBI was still trying to find out the identities of the other people involved in the planned rebellion.

Assistant Regional Director Ebdalmoin Pangandaman, National Bureau of Investigation Special Task Force chief, said Camarine underwent a lie-detector test at the NBI and passed it. "It showed that there was no indication of deception on his part," he said.

However, State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who is handling the case, said the DOJ did not consider Montayre a "suspect" and was making no hint her role.

"We don't believe it [Camarine's confession] yet. We're still assessing the evidence. I don't consider her a suspect yet," Velasco said.

Camarine and 11 others were tagged as the persons behind the bombs found at the Department of Interior and Local Government Building in Quezon City, the Supreme Court building in Camp Aguinaldo, and the Immaculate de Sta Antonio parish in Forbes Park, Makati last week. The bombs were found and defused on June 20 and 21.

Camarine and his accomplices were allegedly promised P100,000 each to plant the bombs.

Gutierrez said Camarine met with Montayre and Benjamin Sin, the alleged financier of the plot, in Quezon City during the first week of June to plan the alleged rebellion.

Pangandaman said the NBI wanted to find out "who informed" Montayre to Camarine since the two had never met.

Camarine's group planned a "selective assassination" of top government officials, particularly De Venecia, Gutierrez said.

She added that the group wanted De Venecia eliminated to stop the proclamation of President Macapagal-Arroyo as the winner in the last elections.

Pangandaman said the group planned to ambush De Venecia and "blow up his car using a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). Plans changed when they discovered no one among them knew how to use an RPG. Instead, they decided to bomb various installations in the capital.

Camarine, his helper Cesario P. Ramirez, Antonio B. Mercadito, 40, Rolly L. Pillado, 35, Nita, 40, a certain Lucil, a certain Engi, and five John Does were charged last week at the DOJ for the attempted bombings.

The police raided Camarine's house in Park Place Executive Village, Bonbokin, Barangay San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal, on June 22 and found the bomb ingredients, some guns and ammunition.

Making bombs

The bomb ingredients included one and a half inch of ammonium nitrate, two pieces of C-4, a blasting cap, two rolls of detonating cords, an undetermined quantity of black powder, a half gallon of gasoline, packing tape and five alarm clocks.

In his counter-statement, Pareres said he met his co-accused inside the border in Camarine's house in Cainta, Rizal and hired plans to supply the government.

"I heard them talking about a plan to bring down the government and replace it with their leader," Pareres said in Pilipino. "I realized that they were serious because their plan to plant bombs at the DILG, DND and Malacañang was carried out."

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Getting around Luneta route

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MOTORISTS who don't want to be caught in the traffic mayhem that will mark the inaugural ceremonies of President Macapagal-Arroyo today at the Rizal Park can choose from several alternate routes to get to their destinations.

The Metro Manila Traffic Engineering Center (MMTEC) advised all motorists from areas south and north of Manila to take the stretch of Taft Avenue today.

Portions of Roxas Boulevard, from Quirino Avenue to Taft Avenue will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Motorists coming from Pasay and other southern cities, meanwhile, may take Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) right to Taft Avenue, then left to Taft Avenue.

Southbound vehicles coming from Manila's bridges—Quezon Bridge, Nagtahan, Mabini-Bonifacio Bridge, Ayala, Quezon Bridge, Jones Bridge, Santa Cruz, and Jones Bridge—may head straight to Taft Avenue.

Those coming from the entire eastern flank of Manila may take Magallanes Drive, then turn left to Taft Avenue.

But the public, the streets of Intramuros, from Padre Burgos to Aduana Circle, take Intramuros Avenue, right on Gen. Luna Street, then left to P. Burgos Street.

But the public, the streets of Intramuros, from Padre Burgos to Aduana Circle, take Intramuros Avenue, right on Gen. Luna Street, then left to P. Burgos Street.

Motorists may also use Intramuros' parking area.

POLICE rounded up four alleged members of the Jemaah Islamiyah in Taguig, Metro Manila, yesterday. The four—Arnold Jahagar (Abu Kamarza, Ahmad Ibnu and Marno Tangkabanay—are suspected of being involved in a plan to plant bombs in different areas of Metro Manila. See story on Page A3.

Monumento makeover begins

By Edwin C. Tortoso Jr.

CALOOCAN

Outgoing Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo has dared elected Mayor Enrico Echiverri to open the Bonifacio Monumental Circle to motorists, predicting the new mayor's plans to undo his project would cause severe traffic jams.

Echiverri has accepted the challenge.

The Monumento makeover began yesterday, right after Echiverri takes his oath of office also at the controversial landmark.

Echiverri told the boxers that road blocks on sidewalks along lots would be removed sooner or as part of his planned "redesign" for the area.

At the same time, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, upon the recommendation of the Caloocan City officials, yesterday disclosed an alternate route that could decongest vehicular traffic once around the MRT.

Four major roads—Edsa, LR Road, Monumento and the Mac Arthur Highway from Manila City, Valenzuela City—all end up in the MRT area.

Malonzo's administration spent almost P12 million for the MRT project last year that also connected a center island named "Historical Walk" along Edsa.

Because of the park project, part of the grounds was closed to motorists, who must turn to use a U-turn slot in left Time Street, hundreds of motors away.

Echiverri had said one of his priorities as the new mayor would be to redesign the area by converting the Historical Walk to a center island and opening the grounds to motorists.

Echiverri had already formed a group to study possible designs for the grounds, adding that he would also consult with mall owners and MMDA officials on ways to improve the main road.

Under the proposed rerouting scheme, vehicles from Monumento bound for Valenzuela City could turn right to Samaritan Street then Edsa, according to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

With Marlene Erfe

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Mandaluyong turnover: triumph of accommodation

By Luige del Puerto

AFTER six years, Benjamin "Benbo" Abalos Jr. formally handed over the leadership of Mandaluyong City to his friend and ally, re-elected "Boyet" Gonzales II, in a ceremony at the city gymnasium yesterday.

There, he took his oath as then, defeating's late representative, replacing Gonzales.

The two have shown their seniority—and future accessories for their seats—how political accommodation could work.

Instead of engaging in what would have been a fierce race for the mayoral post, the two decided on careful course—a move primarily meant to accommodate Gonzales, who was well on his third and last term in Congress.

The chair' partner is, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and the late Senate President Sergio Osmeña, forged the first Abalos-Gonzales alliance in the '70s.

By opting to support each other last May, the two politicians have further strengthened their fathers' past.

A day before he turned over his post, Abalos said he had mixed feelings about leaving.

He attended his last flag ceremony as mayor on Monday, where he bid goodbye to employees.

Abalos was shown a video about his stint in the city, and other employees had to say to him.

"The city has been my life. If there was a fire, floods, or any disaster, I would be there. I would run all that," he said. "But such a life. It's time to move on."

Abalos said his first measures in Congress would be to look into the power and water industry.

He said he would also work at lowering the costs of transporting agricultural goods from the provinces to the centers.

Gonzales said his first act as mayor would be to ease movement by "re-engineering" the collections, and business and permits department.

Officials had earlier told Gonzales that the city's target was to collect P450 million in real estate taxes last year. It collected only around P320 million, a shortfall of around 40 percent.

PUVs sans matrix fined

By Margaux Diva

MORE than a hundred public utility vehicles have been apprehended by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority this week for failing to display their fare matrices.

The MMDA's Metrobase said PUVs caught without a fare matrix were fined P500 for the first offense. If they're caught again, they pay P1,000. The franchise is cancelled on the third offense.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) had ordered the publication of jeepney groups to extend the business on imposing penalties for not having the fare matrix that should have been on display since June 15.

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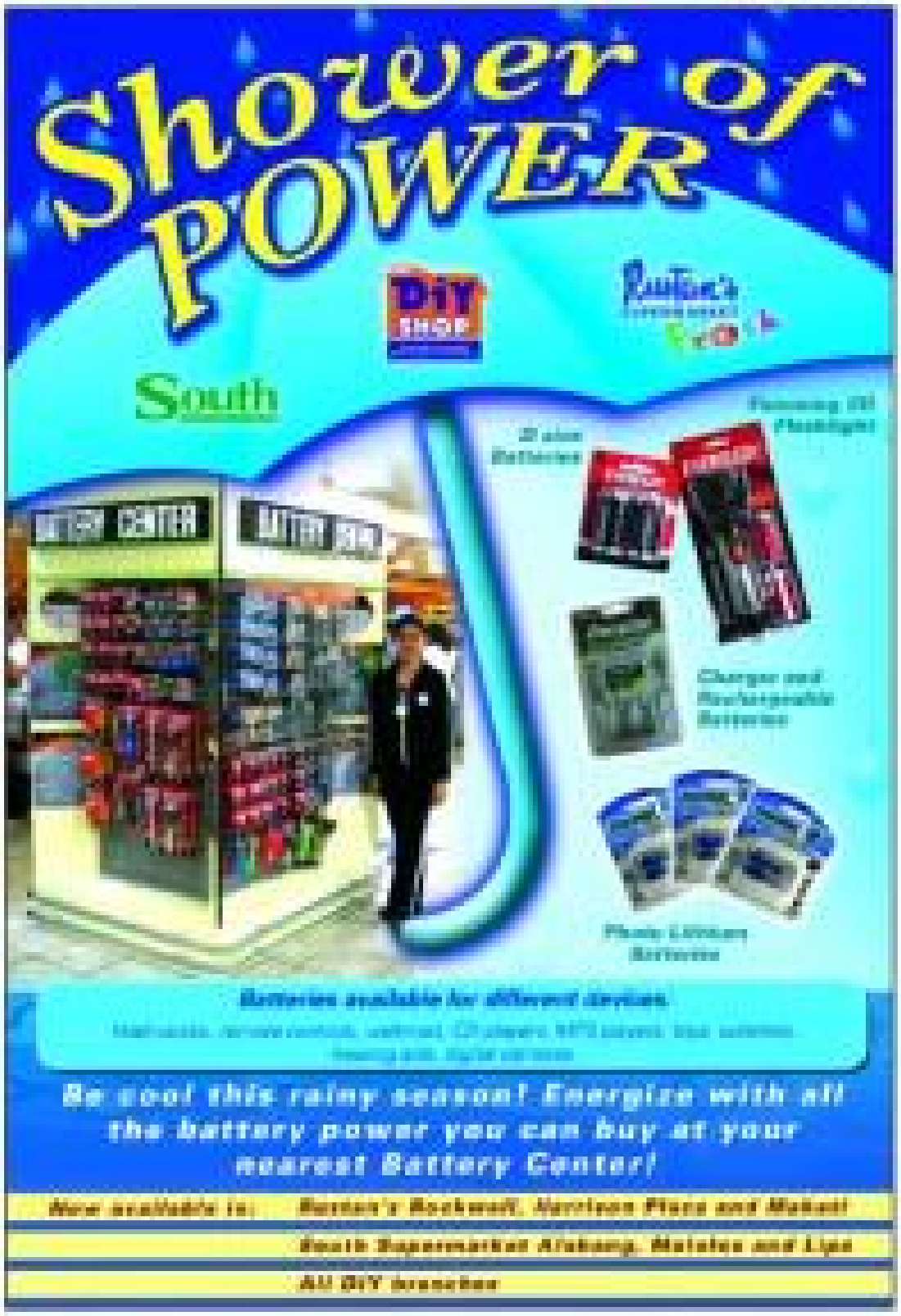


Pamatong posts bail, fights back

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

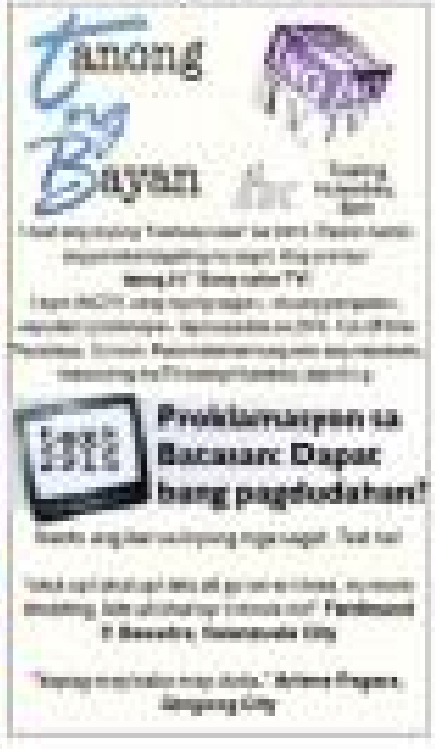
[illegible] bars to fight back.

Lawyer Elly Pamatong, released from detention yesterday after posting bail, is poised to file charges against soldiers and policemen for allegedly unlawfully arresting him and seven others in Laguna last Friday.

Arrested on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives, the disqualified presidential candidate posted bail for P60,000 at the provincial prosecutor's office in Sta. Cruz, Laguna at past noon ahead of his companions.

Authorities had seized a cache of weapons, including an M-16 rifle with an M203 grenade launcher, rifle grenades and M203 grenades from Pamatong and his seven companions following their arrest.

"We will file criminal and administrative charges against the agents for unlawful arrest," said Pamatong's lawyer, Sylvester Pasalo.



Not for another are for their own.

Yesterday the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), an anti-crime group, has asked the Supreme Court to declare him for another unbecoming a lawyer.

VACC founding chair Dante Jimenez and president Manuel Sonz, who signed the petition, is also asking the help of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to move for the disbarment.

Pamatong and his companions were nabbed on a raid house in Sta. Maria, Laguna, and not at a checkpoint in Makiling, also in Laguna, as claimed by the police and military. Pasalo said, adding that his client was arrested without any arrest or search warrant.

Pamatong was arrested the day after he submitted [illegible] to make roads in Metro Manila and in other provinces June 28 and 29, evening news from that featured the [illegible] hazardous.

He has since requested his subordinates, who ask the police court to withdraw in filing charges of [illegible] against him.

Additional charges

Pamatong would also file additional charges of theft and violation of their rights to counsel against the operatives for allegedly taking their cash and mobile phones, and denying them access to be represented by a lawyer, Pasalo said.

He has charged Lt. Col. Tilden Rivas and Lt. Col. Marden Dano, both of the army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, and Superintendents Ferdinand Divina and Reynaldo Regan, both of the Laguna provincial police, he said.

The others are SPO1 Nestor Mendoles, PO3 Henry Dumlao, and Police Officers 1 Harold Ibarle and Rowell Ibarle.

Laguna provincial Board Member Leonardo Apolinario said the arrest other reports are also apply for bail.

The VACC petition, on the other hand, asked for Pamatong's "disbarment for life as he is considered a very dangerous person, causing public disorder and inconvenience to citizens and a disgrace to the law profession."

Jimenez also noted that Pamatong was threatened to burn down schools and [illegible] had 30 guerilla officers and 300 volunteers to carry out the threat. With dyanabo Di Ibang and Nestor Lazaro Burgos

VP BOWING OUT

You haven't seen the last of him, says Guingona

By Jerome Aning

AFTER handing over his office to elected successor Sen. Noli de Castro, outgoing Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said he would continue to take an active stand in social issues.

"I may be leaving the government, but I will continue to fight for this land and its people," he told a forum of Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

He quoted the late United States President John F. Kennedy who said that "a man serves on the best upon he stands and that he is interested not by the position he holds, but by the reason he fights for."

The Vice President said he would remain involved in issues regarding globalization, national governance and the Philippines' close relationship with the US.

Guingona, whose term expires today, said he would now be able to attend President Macapagal-Arroyo's inauguration in Cebu City despite her proclamation. He is scheduled to administer the oath of office to his son Teofisto III, as the elected second district representative of Bohol now. He would also administer the oath of office to his wife Ruth de Leon Guingona, as mayor of Tangong City in Misamis Oriental.

"But in order to not disappoint my friends in Bohol, I will be keeping with my commitments," Guingona added.

The Vice President resigned as foreign secretary in July 2003 after a falling out with Ms Macapagal due to irreconcilable differences over major policy issues. He later became a public advocate for Ms Macapagal's closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr., during the campaign.

Guingona declined to evaluate the performance of the Macapagal administration and has left it up to the people to decide. In his speech, he said his greatest accomplishment was forging a former military rebellion group into a political party, Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.

"I think she succeeded in some (goals) but not in others. She succeeded in forging close ties with the US, she succeeded in convincing us that she is firmly against terrorism, but I feel that much of the vision of Edsa II was not achieved," he said. "I feel sad."

The Vice President said nothing could stop Ms Macapagal's inauguration tomorrow, despite allegations of massive electoral fraud by Poe's camp. He added the opposition's move to file a protest before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) on the results of the May 10 presidential election could be a counter-protest and this would result in further delays and instability.

PCGG gripes back at former commissioner

By O. Pertinger

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government swiped back at a retired commissioner who allegedly "interfered with and impeded" the agency.

The PCGG took exception to ex-commissioner Victor Herrera's claims that the resigned party treasurer she could no longer hear the "inconsistent and unprofessional" acts committed by other commissioners.

"This is totally outrageous because there is no basis [for Herrera's] statement," said PCGG information chief Nick Inumerable.

He said Yorac's leadership was marked by "openness and transparency."

"She has made the entire staff involving an inquiry after inquiry," he said.

"She has made it clear to everyone the agency will not tolerate dishonesty both in small and big matters."

Herrera resigned effective June 7. She said her resignation letter to Malacañang on May 7.

But in an "open letter" last June 15, she expressed her grave concern about fellow commissioners William Ildefonso and Orlando Rodriguez.

She said she had earlier set for herself two conditions for leaving. "When I have achieved substantial accomplishments and when anomalies and irregularities have become more than one hour."

Herrera said records in the agency's personnel and legal departments, which Arroyo has supervised, would show "whether the totality has accomplished much."

"It is a common knowledge that most of the time she is out in the office set by in the late afternoons, if she comes at all," said Herrera.

"It is also common knowledge that documents signed in her office without action for two months."

Herrera pointed out that in her resignation letter, memo and that she was leaving because her "incumbency" from the University of the Philippines would expire on June 7.

Bring in sound-conscious that Arroyo, recent temporary leader, DP Secretary Alberto Romulo has not that she would return to the family after sixteen.

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Biazon or Barbers? Comelec to resolve contest for 12th Senate berth today

By Marvin P. Mariñ

THE COMMISSION on Elections' first division is expected to resolve the deadlocked bout between Senatory Robert Barbers and Rodolfo Biazon today.

According to Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, the Comelec's senior staff was studying the legacies submitted by both sides and scrutinizing them with the rewards of the decision body.

"If we will be able to render a consensus this afternoon, this may be endorsed man the acting overnight so the decision will be promulgated most likely tomorrow (today)," he said.

Both sides, using official and supposedly authentic Comelec documents, have claimed victory in the race for the last slot for the Senate.

The Barbers camp said that they were by a thousand votes over Biazon while the Biazon camp claimed that they won by 30,146.

Biazon, who had been by 10,000 votes, was proclaimed early June after the Comelec said that the uncanvassed votes would not affect the outcome of the election.

But days later, Barbers filed a petition to annul Biazon's proclamation saying that 29,227 votes were not canvassed when the Senate was declared the 12th senator.

Based on a tally made by the Barbers' camp, 19,000 of the still uncanvassed votes come from at least three towns in Mindanao while the rest are spread out in Northern and Southern Luzon and in Visayas.

Bishop says Pagcor, not Mike, real target

By Blanche S. Rivera

DELARMENTE seemed to mock, the archer said.

Pampanga Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the bayanan that his watchdog remarks about a birthday dancer held Saturday night in Malacañang had been aimed at Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and not at the celebrant, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The prelate earlier condemned Pagcor's bringing 25 female entertainers to the Palace "to entertain the First Gentleman and his close associates" during the event.

In a phone interview yesterday, Cruz said he understood only Arroyo was upset. "He thought he was the target. (But) he was not. He was just there. ... It was his birthday. Pagcor wanted to score good points."

Even so, he clarified, he was not apologizing. Instead, he stood his ground: "Those girls are not entertainers."

Both Pagcor and Arroyo's point-of-view on Monday that the women had merely served as substitutes for the estimated 1,500 guests at the Palace party.

"They are not strippers, (either)," Cruz insisted. "They are marketing assistants. That is not in their job description. The point is, Pagcor should not have done that to (them)."

Exploitation

He recounted in a previous statement that, before the party, the women were gathered in a room at the Manila Pavilion on United Nations Avenue where they were dressed and made up. He said among the instructions given these were to "not wear their wedding rings, if any."

"Why were they given clothes?" Cruz reiterated yesterday. "Why were they told not to wear jewelry? To me, that is Pagcor designating (a) marketing assistant," to yourself, he said, it was "exploitation."

One of the women, Shaderen Tarson, came out Monday morning to say she had felt "privileged and happy" to have joined the First Family in the celebration.

Cruz shrugged this off, saying that how the women felt was "not the point," online. "Even if (one or five of them were happy, that does not mean it was okay."

He urged women's organizations to look into the matter.

'Misinformed, misled'

The group Pilipina Legaspi for Good Governance, whose priest dom attended the birthday dance, said in a statement yesterday that Cruz must have been "misinformed, misled and misinformed by his sources in Pagcor".

Noting that the outspoken bishop was a staunch critic of Pagcor's operations, the group said: "The Church has to adapt and preach whatever manner it may choose on gambling, but no person or institution is free to spread unmitigated lies."

"Again, my concern was not the issue here," Cruz shot back. "The question is whether Pagcor did that or not." Whoever it comes from, he stressed, "the truth is the truth."

Jamby ready to heed GMA unity call but...

By Ey Zamora
and Gina Gracia Garcia
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

OPPOSITION Sen. Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal yesterday said she was prepared to heed President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for unity and cooperation but she would remain with the opposition once deadlines.

In a statement, Madrigal said: "My battle cry as leader of the Kusang Pulitika Movement (KPM) is to put the welfare of the people, beyond politics and above party affiliations.

Speaking a member of the opposition, I am mindful of our role as watchdogs which is important in preserving our democratic institutions. To keep our democracy healthy and strong, a vigilant, active and responsible opposition par ty is essential," she said.

Earlier, the lawmaker reported that Malacañang had made overtures to Madrigal to name some to the administration side.

No formal offer

But Madrigal said she had yet to receive a formal offer from the Palace. "I can't possibly reject an offer which has not been formally made," she said.

In Iloilo City, where she participated in the 9th Walkathon Dalaw 2004 (all) not coaching from rich on Monday, Madrigal said she was for a "multi-pronged approach" that addresses poverty and progress that the administration would be) pushing (would) be for the welfare of the Filipino people."

"Party means that, even the media has to help all public servants (GMA) their tasks. So I will not call it a boycott. There should be a concerted effort (by) public, government and private sectors (including) the media to do our best to rebuild our country," she said.

Madrigal, 66, was one of Pangasinan candidates under the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) to win a Senate seat. The others were Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Some of the prominent and wealthy Madrigal family, she previously has had no experience in politics. She served as president adviser on children's affairs during the short-lived Estrada administration.

Less politics, more action

In her statement yesterday, Madrigal appealed to all elected officials to set aside "opposition-versus-partisan politics" and banish down his mark for the sake of country and people.

Cops finally file complaint vs Jaworski, Yap scions

From page A1

and witnesses," he told the inquirer.

Parking attendants

"If that happened, police would still be blamed. It's really a damned if you do, damned if you don't situation."

Police operations said police were banking on the testimonies of three valet parking attendants of Hyatt restaurant who were in the area during the shootout on June 21.

Ina two-page statement, one of the attendants said he saw one man carrying an Ingram machine gun and another with an Uzi submachine gun.

Mendoza's lawyer, on the witness was parking a customer's vehicle, he said he saw behind him a red Toyota Corolla (USA-221) from which four men alighted. They proceeded in the back of the nearby Savoy Homes on Florida Street, according to the witness.

Other components of the residential area were later painted them as the "hostages of CIMC building, where they were met by the other detained allegedly carrying weapons group.

Another witness, a Susan Bernal, was seen pulling over near CIMC at this time.

Despite the testimonies, Malaquen was not confident that the case would prosper in court in the absence of testimonies from Yap and Jaworski.

He said their could have been a fourth witness—a security guard who had been interviewed on TV—but the eyewitness has since gone into hiding, apparently wanting no part in the high-profile case.

"We are undismayed the witnesses' predicament. It's logical for anyone to hide during a burst of gunfire and as a result see nothing," Velasquez said.

63 gun slugs

"Jaworski and Yap are really in the best position to tell who shot who but the problem is (they're not filing any charges. They're just refusing media and police. Without them, we can't hold up in court."

Besides the three witnesses' testimonies, police have only the 63 slugs—from 00, 14.6 and 9 mm guns—and Jaya's Honda CRV as their physical evidence.

Velasquez said the Jaworskis yesterday acceded to his office's request that one of their vehicles be subjected to ballistics examination.

Asked for comment, the Yap family lawyer, Ayron San Pedro, said: "Upon receipt of the complaint, we'll just file our counter-affidavit. We're just in the preliminary investigation and let me say it. So I can't give you details of what our defense would be. We will just prepare our defense."

Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr., brother of Ayen, said the decision "I think it's unsafe. I don't even

Enrile to Miriam: Shut up

By Jerry Esplanada

MND room mate beatdown

This was opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's message yesterday to administration Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago who had warned the Kilusan ng Magkakaisang Pilipino against holding its inauguration for Fernando Poe Jr., among other illegal mass actions.

"It would be better for (Santiago) to give advice to members of the K-4, not the KMP (he should leave us alone because she is not a member of the opposition). She knows very well that her opinion won't be respected by any in the opposition," Enrile told the reporters.

According to Enrile, Santiago "should leave us to think for ourselves. She has no business telling us what to do."

The formerly opportunistic senator had warned the opposition against resorting to "mass-controlled mind-renewal" or mass President Macapagal-Arroyo's inaugural.

Santiago claimed she received reports of planned anti-government rallies in Mendiola and Luneta by Bonifacio yesterday.

The feisty senator also warned that a separate inauguration for the senior senator "would constitute an act of insurrection or rebellion."

According to Santiago, that would be "an attempt to usurp the allegiance of the people from the duly elected government to another illegal government."

Enrile, however, brushed aside Santiago's pronouncements, stopping short of asking the former opposition ace leader to shut up.

Asked about Fernando Poe Jr.'s inaugural, Enrile said he has "yet to decide whether to go or not."

"I'll probably cross the bridge when I get there. You see, I'm not fond of attending such occasions. I'm not used to further. I'm a very quiet person," he added.

Yesterday, Enrile also advised Poe not to file a protest before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

"To me, that will be a waste of time and waste of resources. Everybody knows how long it takes for a protest to be acted upon and get to judicial which, as we all know, may not favorable," said the veteran politician.

Poe, who maintains he was cheated of poll victory, will go to the electoral tribunal but will focus only on 23 questionable certificates of canvass, reports said.

ENRILE

The same GMA cheated "structures, alterations and discrepancy in figures," according to Sergio Apostol, a former ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo before becoming a member of the KMP executive committee.

According to Perez, election returns that involved a recount were those from the provinces of Iloilo, Bohol, Davao Occidental, Bulacan, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Leyte.

The KMP game plan will outline the protest filing for as early as P5 million, Perez also said.

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THE LEADER IN THE LAMINATING FIELD

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 30, 2004
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Am 3:1-8; 13-15
Gospel: Mt 10:34-11:1

When Amos watched brothers in the other tribe, he was not by his decision-making nature torn from the scene. They were as flesh and blood to him, deserving support and love. Yet he did not hesitate to speak out, even at the risk of his own life, when God's love prompted him to remind his fellow Israelites of their sins.

At times this is a very difficult thing to do. Sometimes we have to say things that we know will cause pain to those we love. Jesus tells us that we must put God first in our lives, even if it means that we will be misunderstood by our own family members.

The Gospel challenges us to ask ourselves: Do we love God above all else? Do we love Him more than we love our own family members? Do we love Him more than we love ourselves?

Commentary:

The way of holiness was to prepare the way, and so it was. Jerusalem's to have. It's not surprising to find that Amos, who wasn't "one from" originally, whose sole ambition was to be a shepherd, was the one who was given the task of being that to Jerusalem. Everything in this story, then, is timeless, universally applicable. At least it was appropriate when all these statements about God's people should be heard by Israel. There is a lesson for all of us in this.

At the end of the story, Amos has overstepped everything. He demands from God more than the law, which in turn from God's law. Amos had a special duty to speak out. He was not the only one who was "one from" originally, whose sole ambition was to be a shepherd, was the one who was given the task of being that to Jerusalem. Everything in this story, then, is timeless, universally applicable. At least it was appropriate when all these statements about God's people should be heard by Israel. There is a lesson for all of us in this.

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Want to join the Jesuits?

THE JESUIT Province and Brothers will be holding a vocation seminar for male college students and young professionals on July 25, Sunday.

Maximum age limit is 29 years old. Single graduate first.

The seminar will be held at the Garage, Arrupe Building, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For details, call 426-6001 and ask to speak to any member of the Ateneo Promotions Team, or send email to vocation@ateneo.edu or to mobinia_admin@yahoo.com.ph.

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The WORLD

Edited by LAWRENCE B. GARCIA

Islamic radicals threaten Iraq's fragile interim government

BAGHDAD—Bomb-building Islamic radicals have joined forces with guerrilla foot soldiers from Saddam Hussein's ousted regime in a bloody insurgency that now has a new target: Iraq's fragile interim government.

Officials here fear, warning that insurgents may be planning a big attack offensive and a spate of car bombs to disrupt the day that the interim government is installed.

It's no secret to Iraq's final Governor and his entourage, who abruptly handed the reins to Iraq's new government on Monday, two days early, to foil or frustrate the expected machinists. But "the danger—and this [400,000 US troops there will be] is more in charge of the country's economy—may still have to loom.

"The political aim of our operation here has primarily Americans. Certainly the military operation has not gone out of business," said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the coalition deputy operations chief.

"Frankly, we could not more relocate to the days and weeks ahead in the transition and the Iraqi regime leaders might want to start their new government," he said in an interview with all Radio.

How Prime Minister Iyad Allawi must lead a shattered country for seven months while preparing for January's general elections.

Hours after the handover of sovereignty, blasts rang out in central Baghdad, as they do nearly every day in the Iraqi capital.

An increasingly brutal insurgency has set off more than two dozen car bombs this month alone. And as Allawi's government tries to project the resurgent army by undergoing a wet'ring metamorphosis.

There is evidence that ex-Baathist guerrillas—known by their guns and grenade attacks, are working more closely with Islamic militants who have been using car and suicide bombings.

Those guerrillas are expected to launch attacks aimed at disrupting those elections and the world. Allawi's government, which was selected in large measure by the United States.

Until recently, the US military logic placed the Islamic extremists at odds with guerrillas thought to be linked to Saddam's former Baath Party. Those included remnants of the Republican Guard and Saddam's Fedayeen militia, which fought doggedly against US troops during the 2003 invasion.

But the new alliance, described as a "marriage of convenience," may have been evident in a recent offensive on Thursday that saw attacks in a number of cities by guerrillas and car bombers launched simultaneously, attacks that killed over 100 people.

Fourteen attacked police stations in Mosul, with guerrilla teams heavily dressed in black jihadist outfits and headbands carrying radical Islamic slogans, Kimmitt said. AP

US soldier executed in Iraq, militants claim

BAGHDAD—An Arabic television station broadcast a video tape showing what militants said was the execution of a US soldier, hours after the United Nations formally handed sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government.

The US-led coalition handed power to Iraqi leaders on Monday, but days earlier than planned, in an apparent effort to thwart any guerrilla attempt to mark the event with a spectacular attack. The two-day ceremony took many by surprise.

The day passed with no major incident on the streets of a country shaken over recent weeks by bombings and kidnappings.

Commander Arab states said, control the event.

But video footage broadcast hours after the handover highlighted the security problems facing the government and the US-led coalition troops in the country. In 14 months after the ouster of president Saddam Hussein.

Al Jazeera television showed film of what a militant commentator said was a US soldier.

A picture could be seen Sergeant shot in the soldier wearing greenish overalls and seen side from the back. The body collapsed into shade.

US defense officials said the family of Private Keith Matthew Maupin, 20, seized by militants in April, had been told about the circumstance of the video, but that there was no confirmation Maupin, from Botkins, Ohio was the man killed.

Al Jazeera quoted a statement from a previously unheard of group as saying the soldier was killed because of US policy in Iraq and to avenge for what it described as their "martyrs" in Iraq, Israeli, Arab and Algeria.

The group was not known but is believed to be linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant leader blamed for a series of deadly attacks in Iraq.

MAUPIN

Asaer April militants in Iraq have seized a number of foreign workers and military personnel. Three Turkish foreigners have been threatened with "execution" on Tuesday if Turkey does not order companies to stop dealing with US forces in Iraq.

Ankara has rejected the guerrilla demands.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, speaking at the formal ceremonies of his government, urged Iraqis to unite against foreign Islamic militants.

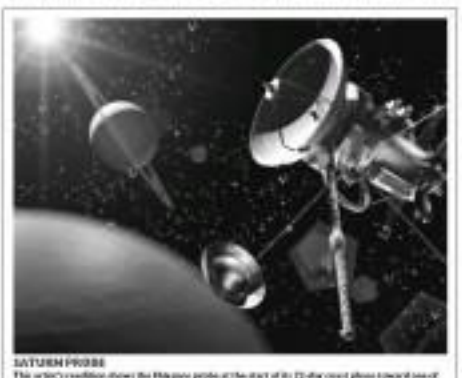
US and Iraqi officials say militants tried to instigate the bloody al-Zarqawi, an ex-CIA Washington al-Jaida or al-Qaida, are behind a campaign of suicide bomb attacks that have killed hundreds over the past year as well as kidnappings.

Zarqawi's group beheaded a South Korean last week after Seoul rejected a demand to withdraw its forces from Iraq, and last month decapitated a US captive.

Although Allawi's government will have full sovereignty, according to a UN Security Council resolution earlier this month, there are important constraints on its powers.

It is limited from making long-term policy decisions and will not have to consult with more than 160,000 US-led foreign troops who will stay in Iraq. Reuters

THE STARS and Stripes flew at half-staff, after a silent ceremony in which the toppling was recalled for the first time at a base in Baghdad which the US Army's 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division shares with Iraq's National Guard. AFP



SATURN PROBE

This artist's rendition shows the Huygens probe at the start of its 22-day coast phase toward one of Saturn's moons, Titan, as it is jettisoned from the Cassini spacecraft. Huygens will be the first probe to land on a world in the outer Solar System. The Cassini spacecraft is due to arrive and orbit the planet Saturn today. AFP/ESA

US resumes diplomatic relations with Libya

TRIPOLI—The United States on Monday formally restored its diplomatic ties with Libya, severed for 24 years, as President George W Bush pledged to work toward a complete normalization of relations between the two countries.

US deputy assistant Secretary of State William Burns said in a statement he had formally inaugurated the new US mission Office in Tripoli and restored chief diplomatic ties.

"This occurs 24 years after the withdrawal of American personnel and the closure of the US Embassy—Libya would be taking its own steps to establish diplomatic representation in the US," he added.

Burns issued the statement after meeting with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and other Libyan government officials.

In a letter to Gadhafi, Bush hailed cooperation between US and Libyan experts on stopping the North African country's weapons of mass destruction programs, the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

"President Bush praised in his letter to brother leader Gadhafi that this continuing cooperation... will speed up the process of opening up bilateral relations to the highest level," JANA said.

Burns handed Bush's letter to Gadhafi during a meeting at Tripoli on his second visit in three months, it said.

The United States closed its embassy in Libya in 1980 after attacks on two French missions there. Relations deteriorated, culminating in the US bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 and the 1988 bombing of a US passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland. A Libyan was convicted of the crime in 2001. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Bomb kills US marines

BAGHDAD—A roadside bomb has killed at least seven soldiers of US marines in Baghdad on Tuesday, in the first recorded fatal attack on US forces since a new Iraqi interim government took control of the country. The attack occurred in the early morning hours of the day, according to the US military. "A US military spokesman confirmed to Reuters that a US marine was killed in action in Iraq today," the US military spokesman said in a statement. "Since the start of the war on Iraq in March 2003 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq and at least two have been captured by guerrillas. Reuters

US to hand over Saddam

BAGHDAD—The US-led multinational force has officially agreed to hand over Saddam Hussein and 11 members of his regime to the Iraqi authorities in the next few days, Secretary's special tribunal said Tuesday. Salem Chalabi, chairman of the tribunal, said 12 prisoners, including Saddam and the members of his regime, including Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister, would be handed over to the Iraqi authorities. "An agreement was reached two days ago between the US and the Iraqi interim government," he said. AFP

Saudi militant surrenders

JEDDAH—One of Saudi Arabia's most wanted militants surrendered Monday, the first senior suspect to turn himself in under a new month amnesty aimed at rooting out Islamic militants, a security source said. Ahmad al-Shaer, number 19 on a list of 26 wanted fugitives published by the Saudi government last year, had his self-styled "holy grave" himself as an insurgent to the Kingdom's security forces. "I came here to surrender to the police," the source, who spoke on condition he was not named, quoted Shaer as saying. Reuters

3 Taliban leaders nabbed

KABUL/SAN FRANCISCO, Afghanistan—US forces said they captured three Taliban leaders in southern Afghanistan at the weekend, while US Marines swooping across a remote desert area killed three guerrilla commanders. In a statement on Monday, US military spokesperson Major Cindy Moore said US special forces captured two "top enemy leaders" in raids in an unnamed part of the south before dawn on Saturday. She named the "regional leaders" as Abdul Hadi Khalid and Mohammad Essa, but Taliban spokesperson Abdul Latif Hakimi said they were not senior figures in the movement, which has waged a bloody insurgency since its late 2001 overthrow by US-led forces. Moore said US forces had evidence Khalid and Essa had launched attacks against US and coalition forces and aid agencies, bombed schools and facilitated terrorist activities. Reuters

Israel hits targets on Gaza Strip

GAZA—Israeli forces killed two Gaza militants and killed one Palestinian on Tuesday in what appeared to be a retaliation for a cross-border rocket attack by Islamist militants, Palestinian security sources said.

The morning sweep by some two dozen tanks and armored bulldozers into Beit Hanoun, a town near the boundary with the Israeli area, came hours after Israeli media called and a Israeli fighter plane in Israeli airspace. Palestinian security sources said Israeli forces killed a 23-year-old man during the advance in the area. Sources did not say their Beit Hanoun, also killed been used by Palestinian rocket and mortar crews to attack Israel in its 33-year-old uprising.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

On Monday, Hamas rocket-fired from Gaza into Israel killed four Israelis for the first time—a soldier and a man—in a couple of violence ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned 2005 pullback from the strip.

That attack followed the bombing by Hamas and militants from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of an Israeli in my part in Gaza that killed soldier.

"Who is even hiding over four children? Nobody. That's my message to the power structure," said Yitzhak Oberlies, father of 3-year-old Asli who was slain by the salvo on Sderot town.

In a first withdrawal apparently ordered by Hamas, between Monday night, helicopter by the Israeli Air Force, the Israeli military said. Five Palestinians were hurt, medics said.

Another air strike destroyed a metal foundry in nearby Nuseirat refugee camp, a faction of militants.

Israeli Cabinet approved the plan to evacuate all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four of the 120 in the West Bank.

On Monday, Hamas told a parliamentary committee by vote decimated to press ahead and said settlers who wanted to leave as early as "tomorrow morning" could get advance compensation payment from the state.

"They [settlers] will not be held hostage," Israeli media quoted Hamas as saying to reluctance to a second Cabinet vote due in nine months on whether to begin evacuation of the 7,500 Jews in Gaza, which is home to over 1.3 million Palestinians.

Prior to the cycle of Middle East violence, many of the Gaza settler buildings's staff were deployed outdoors on Monday night, helicopter by the Israeli Air Force, the Israeli military said. Five Palestinians were hurt, medics said.

"We were in our car, in order's patrol of [Israeli] attacks," added, one armed raider Hamas al-Jamal said. "Then there was a huge explosion, and debris and glass flew everywhere. I was wounded by flying glass into my cheek and forehead."

The Israeli army called al-Jaid "a commander of a major rebel militant and a constant contact with terrorists (said) through which Hamas claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks." Reuters

LOST CITY OF THE INCAS

This is the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru's jungle-covered southern Andes in this July 1911 file photo. A century after US explorer Hiram Bingham discovered the ruins, Inca's contrast and mystical relationship with nature are being probed in the "Lost City of the Incas." AP

US high court deals blow to Bush's war on terror

WASHINGTON—The US Supreme Court placed the first limits on President George W. Bush's war on terrorism on Monday when it ruled that some suspects can sue the American judicial system to challenge their confinement.

The rulings, the first the court has made on Bush's anti-terrorism policies, marked a defeat for the president's assertion of sweeping powers to indefinitely hold "enemy combatants" after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

In one ruling, the court said the nearly 600 foreign terror suspects held on two years at the US military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba could turn to American courts to challenge their confinement. In another ruling, it said an American terror suspect held in his native is entitled to a chance to contest the government's decision.

"Today's historic rulings are a strong repudiation of the administration's argument that its actions in the war on terrorism are beyond the rule of law and unreviewable by American courts," Steven Shapiro of the American Civil Liberties Union said.

A US defense official said the Pentagon would examine the rulings to see how to "modify existing procedures," but he put the best face on the court's action, stating it was "important to clear it affirms the president's authority to detain enemy combatants in the global war on terrorism."

By a 6-3 vote, the justices ruled Americans courts can consider the claims of Guantanamo Bay prisoners—suspected al-Qaida members or Taliban fighters—who said in their lawsuits they were being held illegally in violation of their rights.

"What is presently at stake is only whether the federal courts have jurisdiction to determine the legality of the executive's potentially indefinite detention of individuals who claim to be wholly innocent of wrongdoing," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority.

The ruling did not address the merits of the claims, and the detainees still could face a long legal battle to win their release or major changes in the conditions of their confinement.

Ben Emmilin of some Guantanamo Bay detainees and their lawyers said in London the ruling could mean the beginning of the end of the prison camp.

Neil Jaworski from the Center for Constitutional Rights, which brought the case to the high court, said they would seek access to their clients within the week.

In the second ruling, the court divided by a 5-4 vote to rule that Bush has the power to detain Americans like Yaser Hamdi, who was captured in Afghanistan as a suspected Taliban fighter and who has been held in a US military jail. It said the US Congress authorized the detention of combatants in the narrow circumstances alleged in the case.

But in the more important part of the ruling, the justices by an 8-1 vote ruled he should get a fair opportunity to rebut the government's case for detaining him.

Nine court members would have allowed Hamdi, saying his detention was unauthorized. Two of them—Justices David Souter and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—joined the main opinion by four other justices who said Hamdi should have a meaningful opportunity to rebut evidence that he is not an enemy combatant. Reuters

Kuwait resumes ties with Iraq

KUWAIT CITY—Kuwait on Tuesday announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with Iraq, severed since Saddam Hussein's forces invaded the emirate in 1990.

Following the transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government on Monday, "the state of Kuwait announces the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with its Arab republic sister," a Kuwait foreign affairs spokesman said in a statement run by the official KUNA news agency.

Kuwait will send an ambassador to Baghdad at a later date, the spokesman added, stressing that the move showed Kuwait's desire "to co-operate and coordinate (with Iraq) in the interests of the two fraternal countries and their peoples and to consolidate the foundations of security and stability in the region."

Kuwait, which served as a staging post for US and British forces during last year's invasion of Iraq which toppled Saddam, has established good relations with the Iraqi transitional authority which succeeded that regime.

In making its announcement Kuwait, which up to now had said it would not seek Hussein's ex-envoy's was restored to Iraq, was following the lead from Washington, which on Monday restored diplomatic relations which had been cut in February 1991 at the end of the first Gulf War.

That fight, by a US-led multinational coalition, brought about the liberation of Kuwait from Saddam's grasp after seven months of occupation. AFP

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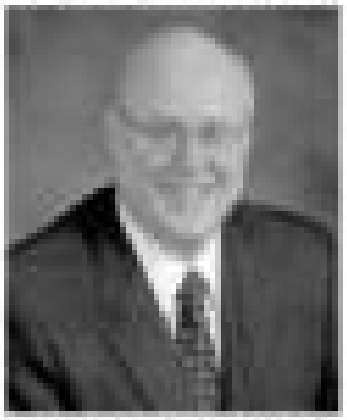

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GOLF: LPGA Classic 9:30 - 6:1 p.m. (SC 23)
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

PBA waives import height limit, OK's stricter rules

By Nassrey Cuadra

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has approved three new rules aimed at uplifting the league's environment in the future.

In a unanimous vote, the league's Board of Governors gave the green light to commissioner Noli Eala's proposed set of rules which will center on, among other things, the limiting of PBA foreign players and imports.

With only one import allowed in each team as a season starting next year, the league lowered the height limit on reinforcements. The move came in the aftermath of the uproar among teams which questioned the league-imposed height of 6foot5 imposed Phillips at the ongoing Fiesta Conference.

PBA foreign players—the subject of past controversies—who wish to play in the league will now have to serve a one-conference exclusion before being declared eligible for the rookie draft.

Most of the old or ex-players, who only have until the end of this year to play for their teams, will have their contracts extended upon the All-Filipino Conference in July next year. The league said the contracts of some players may not be renewed and some others could not before March.

Aside from the usual stringent requirements such as the citizenship papers of parents or relatives which all prospective PBA foreigners need to produce, the applicants will now have to play at least 20 games in any amateur and commercial leagues recognized by the PBA, including the PCAA, UBAP PBL, the CEL in Cebu, MBL, NBC and the UBBL.

Eala said this would make the players stay in the country for close to a year (before making the jump to the PBA) and let the rookie draft of hopefuls, Mark Caguioa and Rommel Adducul, both national universities in past drafts, were picked by the only teams that have them.

"The thrust of the rule is to assess one of the quality of these PBA foreign players so that everyone would know their caliber, whether they deserve stay in the PBA or are just over-advertised," Eala told the reporters.

From 2005 onwards, a team can sign up a maximum of only five PBA foreigners, meaning the homegrown players of at least PBA are in the 24-man rosters.

DOMCH Galvez's "Always match made in heaven and to be played to death" is supposed to be breaking for both the Kings and Barakos.

Bitter rivals go to war

Security tight as Ginebra, Red Bull begin title series

SEATED beside Yeng Guiao during a pre-Finals lunch conference, Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen looked like a sheep ready to be devoured by a snarling wolf.

Luckily for the Kings, the Coca-Cola Asaman PBA Fiesta Conference championship series, which starts with Game 1 today at the Araneta Coliseum, won't be a battle between the soft-spoken Tanquingcen and the animated Red Bull Barako coach—an obvious mismatch.

It's going to be the Kings against the Barakos, which would be more real.

"It's a dream match made in heaven to be played by devils," Guiao said of the series that starts at 7:30 p.m. Game 1 of the best-of-five affair will follow the 4:45 p.m. knockout battle for third place between Talk 'N Text and Coca-Cola.

Guiao's protest of a foiled-to-foul penalty could not be forgotten.

Last year, in a rookie game between both squads, Eala of the two

UEFA 2004 game schedules on Dream

July 1, 2:45 a.m.
Portugal
vs.
Netherlands

Lions, Bombers seek 2nd wins

TWO straight wins over similar rebuilding teams to lend them impetus in a second straight win in the 66th NCAA senior basketball tournament at the Mall Coliseum.

"It will be a tough game," predicted tiger Bicks third-year coach Mark Barcelo, who acknowledged that he and Jose Abad Santos Bombers mentor Gio Gallaza had beaten SP team coach Boy Sanchez on close quarters.

"We almost have the same system.

We're both schooled from that Jumbo, so it will be a battle of motion offense. It's just a matter of which team executes a best," said Barcelo.

San Beda shocked the San Sebastian Stags, but won't connect up, 76-68, and 2002 Mankind head University of Perpetual Help Altas, 73-61, in the season opener last Saturday.

In the other senior game, the St. Benilde Blazers and JCSE Delphins try to barge into the winning column after dropping their first assignments.

The Blazers lost by the slim of three teeth to Mapua, 80-87, while De La Salle-Zobel handed to the defending champions Letran Knights, 84-76, downing JC Ryan

Purefoods taps Koy Banal

By Jane Navarro

PUREFOODS has brought in multi-titled collegiate coach Koy Banal as an assistant to Ryan Gregorio.

The appointment of Koy, younger brother of Talk 'N Text mentor Joel Banal, who has assumed the Rain or Shine head coaching job, is expected to be formally announced today.

"I'm excited," said Banal. "That is a great opportunity for me to help coach Span and Purefoods."

Meanwhile, ABC5 will introduce more highlights for the "non-all-Star Home Countryvision tilts series between Ginebra and Red Bull rebuilt starts today.

Marketing manager Mercedes Isla Cruz said yesterday the coverage will include in-depth reportage, clips from the teams' practices and videos of pre-game huddles.

La Salle, UST in finals

GAME 1 RESULTS (Loser Out)
1 pm — UST vs. Ateneo (Game One)
3 p.m. — DLSU-Zobel vs. TBD (Game)

By Trina Burle, Contributor

REIGNING UAAP rulers La Salle and University of Santo Tomas crushed their respective semifinal rivals yesterday and arranged a championship showdown for the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball championship at the Ynares gym.

Fueled by the power-hitting duo of Shaowen Pesaturan and Desiree Hernandez, the Lady Archers crushed the Ateneo Lady Eagles, 25-17, 27-25, 25-23 win over San Sebastian in the first game.

Pesaturan Roman knocked out host Lyceum, 25-17, 25-23, 25-23, 25-14, in the other game to contest the matchup between the teams that were picked to make it all the way in the championship.

UST and La Salle square off in a best-of-three series starting tomorrow, 1 p.m., followed by the 5 p.m. knockout match for third place between San Sebastian and Lyceum.

With a defensive look exposed by the absence of Thunderbird Jessi Mendejar, who is out with a suspected knee infection (Geriatric Ignatius), La Salle used the offense supplied by the statuesque Pesaturan and Hernandez to ease to a 2-0 set lead.

Carissa Goris, who came in late after attending to an academic commitment, scored the final point of the match that quashed the Lady Eagles' hopes.

LA SALLE's Lady Archers on the offensive in the fourth set of yesterday's game... RYAN CAMPOSOS

The Archers led, 24-19, in the third set, but San Sebastian received the first line match points as Pesaturan and Hernandez seen attacker past the baseline.

That's when Goris took charge, tying the match with a cross-court drop shot.

Aguilar, San Andres power Revtex binge

POINTGUARD Revtex cashed up on victories and turned the Tagaytay-gen Motocross Challenge in Tagaytaygen's Capitol Hills Racetrack into its private playground.

Asia Pacific 1998 champion Chris "The Beaker" Aguilar led his team's six-man romp with wins in the premiere 50cc Open, where he scored teammate Sober Bola Cruz to second place, and 50cc 125.

Kenneth San Andres, the "blue-dar Boy" of local motocross, clutched Aguilar's team KB with victories in the 50cc Open and 50cc 125 class.

RP jins ready for Korea tilt

TEN TYEUNDO athletes and local officials make up the Petron taekwondo team that will see action in the 2004 World Taekwondo Festival and 6th Korea Open championships July 1-7 in Changwon, Korea.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado, the RP-ten tingent will compete against jins from 10 countries.

"This is a tough event, but I expect our campaigners to do well," says Aventajado.

PSA vice president Jong Chen Hong shares Aventajado's view, adding that "our team has always been considered a top contender because it is well prepared and determined."

Rosendo Santiago Jr., Gideon Linares, Angelito Ong and Arnel Carrillo are the officials of the 10-squad sponsored by Petron, Philippine Sports Commission and local.

Bitter PBA rivals go to war

Previous p. A11

teams' turned on each other in a rumble that left star Gaudes Ilas's face grossly rearranged.

The pros, the nets teams played on the same playlist, but not against each other—and still got in to a whodunit-type fight that took policemen to break up.

With the stakes doubled, are might need the extra security pr- fer," joked commissioner Noli Eala.

And when running serious, he said: "We already coordinated with Senators Cobcoral. We asked them to put additional security in the arena. We also contacted the PNP station at the Araneta complex and requested for policemen to be posted in and out of the coliseum."

The two teams have had elements of bad blood. But not long ago, Jerrold Tiongson and Jeff Dowl traded blows in an exhibition match and were fined heavily for their actions.

The fringe spot a losing combination record (12-12), marking the first time a team below the .500 mark will contend in the title.

"It's a testament to the players, how we got here," said Tanquingcen. "It's like the old adage: Never say die. That's the spirit associated with this team and that's what we showed."

Mark Caguioa, averaging 18.7 points, 5.5 rebounds and 5.2 assists per game in the playoffs, will lead the fringe, along with playmaker Jaypee Belencbeel, who had 20 points and 11 assists in the breakout match against Talk 'N Text.

The tropists are expected to counter the marksmen not statistically as the fringe' Enrique Ilagan (32.2 points, 14 rebounds) and the Barakat 'Alvin Pearson (20.8 points, 10.3 rebounds) are expected to pair up their regular numbers. Francis Dehon

Torre prevails, regains lead

Leader after Round 3: 1 D-4-1, Jose (1-1-0, Apdo 2, 2-1-0, Mabini, 4, Mabini, 1 Dimpalan, M Abad, 3, Mabini, 4, Capati 5-1-0, Gonzalez, M Salazar, 1 Gerona, 1 Arcapio, 1, Magno Gonzalez

TAGAYTAY CITY – Grandmaster Eugenio Torre commissioned in international Master Rudy Meñoza in 32 moves of a Slav Defense yesterday to regain the lead with 4 rounds to go in the 22nd Euro Bank-Mike Bello International chessmaster championship at the Gallery Garden Hotel.

Torre, 2004 Asian champion, defeated Meñoza to move to 3 points, a half point ahead of Filipino-Australian Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Filipino-Spanish Jan Emmanuel Gomez.

Antonio, who was tied with Torre at the start of the round, drew with Filipino-Chinese Jan Emmanuel Gomez in 30 moves of a Queen's Gambit Declined.

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Allan says he's happier than Siot

EVERYBODY has spoken, but nobody has dared ask Star former Barangay Ginebra coach Allan Caidic Siot.

So the record, Caidic, all-time PF point-making genie, doesn't care anybody on topic.

He worked hard, has Dawn enhanced for the poor showing of the Gin-Bros team, but kept plodding on to hold up the squad.

Before the start of the season PBA Press Conference, the "beard" on the refurbishment duty had acquired. Ginebra once-ipe for a shot at the championship. Gin-Siot had won a PBA title under Robert Jaworski in 1997.

Well, as everybody knows, Caidic, who took over as coach in 1999, was earlier demoted to team manager of Ginebra and substituted by the younger Siot Tanquingcen.

In management parlance, this is called "kicked upstairs."

Now that Caidic is suddenly back in the PBA championship arena, not a few fans have started to wonder if Caidic felt uneasy to his seat.

***

Did he feel hurt? Did he suffer?

Reports yesterday took Siot to break through the rumble.

Siot's After C: "I'm happier when I am. I won't exchange this position with anybody else. No pressure, no sleepless nights, and I'm free to compose the beats."

Caidic, who is close with scribes of rumor, that he was sorry thankful for what management has done for him and to the Ginebra team.

"I can tell you with a clear heart: I was not hurt. Why should I? I know it was for the good of everybody. Since Day 1, I have left everything to management. I did my job. I'm happy in the thought that I have done my best."

***

How does he feel about coach Tanquingcen?

"I'm very happy for Siot. He has the skills and the know-how. He had a tough start. Injuries and all. Finally, get the right formula, maybe with the entry of our third import, Steven Hoggs. Everybody contributes to the success, but Hoggs has proved very vital to the team's stabilization."

BARE EYE

Alexis Trinidad

The key is, of course, team build up.

Also, while initially screened to be looking, Ginebra acquired the old buttonguy never ages the spirit. A big asset for this. Caidic gave to the young Tanquingcen whom he calls a great motivator.

Singled out was the middling Tanquingcen had given to Mark Caguioa for some homerun shots in the first half of Chris' best-of-three series battle with Talk 'N Text.

That stint, straightforward stones, no doubt, brought out the best from "The Spark," and the whole squad for that matter.

It was one tough technique Caidic had set apart.

Which should mean that Caidic's only fault was his being too kind-hearted?

***

Truth is, come generation of the big home outing, Siot and he no seam for hindrance.

It will be a battle of a match. There will be no piece of heaven in the start.

That should mean or less, paraphrase what Joel Banal coach Tony Gonzalez said about the series being "battle to heaven but which will be played out on the ground."

The Purefoods Tiger host of the may register some wrestle to classic and attendance.

There's no denying the championship security culminates in a weekend rubdown for the PBA with its always-heartpounding pairing of Ginebra and Red Bull, rival clubs with the most fanatical hordes of followers.

Siot held it. Smooth showed that after a post-game clash between Ginebra and Red Bull diehards last year, some fans ended up in the hospital.

There was also a near clash between the two ground last Friday, reported said.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala says they, to counter how passionate, should respect the rules to arena.

JVC badminton listing ends today

REGISTRATION for next month's JVC Open Badminton

Championships ends today with the country's foremost players and shuttlers from top sen positions expected to ring it out for record prizes worth more than P1 million at the Ciudad Deportiva Complex in Malate.

The knockout-seeded event is slated July 10-25. For inquiries, call or text Jason at 895-8, 509-8161, or Agnes at 09-95-8153-8082. Subject: Surname (7328-2068 or 8917-520-8970) or SMS at 731-4771, 521-8161, 09-82-1-8161 (subject).

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Nick Roxas

The oath

THE OATH of office of the President of the Philippines is full of eloquence. It clearly and completely expresses all that a president is expected to do. It emphasizes, above all, two comprehensive obligations that should serve as the moral backbone of any administration: to "do justice to every man," and, on the part of the president, to "consecrate myself to the service of the nation." The oath, then, is a vow of fidelity and obedience (to the Constitution), of adherence to the whole and each citizen, and of service for the nation.

EDITORIALS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo takes her oath of office today in front of the Cebu Provincial Capitol, which itself is adorned with the injunction that "all power emanates from the people." She begins her regular term with the possibility of being the second longest serving President in our history. She has the potential to profoundly influence the direction—or lack of it—this country will take, not just over the next six years but for decades to come.

This is a good time to recall the emphasis on the meaning of the president's oath of office that was made during the impeachment of Joseph Ejercito Estrada, and in the tumultuous years that followed. Then Makati Rep. Jojo Binay was instrumental away in the swearing of the oath of office during the impeachment trial. Former Sen. Raul Roco, in his bid for the presidency made the meaning of the oath of office a central part of his reasons for running and what he hoped to achieve. Because of them, millions of Filipinos became aware of the oath, and the meaning behind its majestic phrases.

In a political system where the distance between the rhetorical insincere on honor and the lack of it in actual practice is as far as the bottom of the ocean to the peaks of the Himalayas, it is good for the country to pause and reflect on the solemnity of this oath.

This oath is the proof that presidents do not only have powers, they have obligations. It is a solemn contract between the chief executive and the citizenry. If every president is duty-bound, before God and country, to fulfill the commitments expressed in the oath, so is every citizen duty-bound to insist on the continued relevance of that oath in every executive action and decision.

The speech

NEXT to the oath of office, it is the inaugural address, or in today's case, the pre-inaugural address and any public pronouncements that may follow, that is the country looks to in order to begin to judge the potential of the president.

While actions are said to speak louder than words, leadership also requires effective communication. And the first instance of direct communication between the chief executive and the people is the inaugural address.

It is a chance to be candid about the truth, but inspirational about the ability of the citizens to face that truth. It is an opportunity to expose the perils facing the country, while holding up the torch of hope.

It also provides the inspiration to resort to rhetoric at the expense of substance. It dangerously enables presidents to resort to window-dressing, even sugar-coating, in the hope of marrying favor with the audience, trading statesmanship for applause.

Filipinos living in all four corners of the globe will be tuned in to hear what the President has to say—and how she says it. The country knows her well enough by now, not to expect soaring rhetoric. But it does expect a clear transition from the candidate who wanted to please everybody to the President willing to embark on the often lonely road that true leadership must take.

She must give us hope, but not feed us lies. She must tell us the sobering truth, but enable us to see the possibility of light at the end of the tunnel. She must make her policies and projects clear so that her country can judge her as incredulously and systematically as she says she views the claims of her office.

From the proclamation of her victory Ms Macapagal has consistently refused to allow others, whether her own people, the opposition or the public, to set the agenda. She will set the pace, she says. She will define the terms. By all means, let her do so. For today begins the greatest, and harshest, period of judgment of all: that of history. Will she enable other poor boys and girls from Lahan and elsewhere to raise themselves by their bootstraps, as her father did? Or will the chance—and hope—of every Filipino to build and live a better life remain an impossibility?

Evidence of poll cheating

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo keeps repeating again for unity and an end to factionalism, yet her very first act as the incoming President is to sow factionalism and disunity. By choosing to be sworn in inside Cebu instead of at the traditional site for presidential inaugurations, the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta, she is showing favoritism. She is showing the nation that Cebuanos are in love more special citizens than all other Filipinos.

Of course, she is showing her gratitude to Cebuanos who gave her an unusually big margin over her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr. Without the Cebu votes, she would have lost the election.

But the opposition claims her camp cheated in Cebu—and they showed plenty of evidence to prove that. So less than honorary Serge Osmeña and John Osmeña, whose clan has long dominated Cebu politics, admit there was cheating in the province. And the senate leader's candidates for governor of the province (who of course won it still contested) have received accusations of cheating. So in choosing to honor Cebu by being inaugurated there, GMA is actually honoring cheating. She is really rewarding the cheaters.

And yet one of her campaign promises is to ensure the nation is clean of corruption. Recently, she also promised to ensure that elections would be honest. Breaking promises, after all, is one of her better-known traits.

Her choice of venue is wrong on many counts. It is the height of insensitivity to the feelings of the people in the rest of the country. It is the ultimate in arrogance. It is the ultimate in bad taste. It is the ultimate in poor judgment. It is the ultimate in stupidity.

It is the ultimate in bad taste because it is being held in the province of the late President Sergio Osmeña Sr., whose son, Sergio Osmeña III, is the chief opponent of Mrs. Arroyo. It is the ultimate in poor judgment because it is being held in the province of Osmeña's political enemies. It is the ultimate in stupidity because it is being held in the province of the people who have been cheated by Mrs. Arroyo.

Mrs. Arroyo's choice of Cebu for her inauguration is the ultimate in factionalism and disunity. By choosing to be sworn in inside Cebu instead of at the traditional site for presidential inaugurations, the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta, she is showing favoritism. She is showing the nation that Cebuanos are in love more special citizens than all other Filipinos.

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And yet one of her campaign promises is to ensure the nation is clean of corruption. Recently, she also promised to ensure that elections would be honest. Breaking promises, after all, is one of her better-known traits.

As the Kapihan on Manila Last Monday for senior Solicitor General Frank Chavez made a power point presentation of how the cheating was planned and executed. He showed official documents, instructions to party leaders, doctored certificates of canvass, statements of voters, etc. He presented documentation in "Operation Clockwise," dated April 23, 2003, long before the poll campaign, which outlined how to beat exactly what happened during the elections. This included preparing the minds of the people for a GMA victory through opinion polls, quick counts by media organizations and Namfrel, exit polls, etc.

The pollsters enrolled in and the results of the elections showed how wrong they were. For example, they predicted an 8 percent margin for GMA over FPJ in metro Manila. But FPJ defeated her in all cities and towns of Metro Manila, except Las Piñas. They forbid Pia Cayetano a loser (No. 16) in the senatorial race, but she finished among the top winners. After this fiasco, I don't know if anybody will still believe the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

Chavez also presented clearly many erasures and alterations in the COCs and SOPs. The presentation took all of half an hour, and to me and others with objective minds, it is convincing. There isn't square there to repeat everything espoused there but Chavez distributed CDs which he asked the recipients to reproduce and distribute to friends to inform the people. It can also be downloaded and printed on paper, photocopied and distributed. Do it, he said, so the people will know how the presidency was stolen from them.

* * *

A computer expert, Solomon Jimenez of the University of the Philippines, showed in an article in the June 16 issue of the Inquirer how the counting was done to manifest to give the people the impression that GMA was winning, he called it "forced silence," which is different from "cheating by silence."

In the beginning of the quick counts, FPJ was winning, but by the simple expedient of tallying votes in from areas where GMA was ahead of those areas where FPJ won, Namfrel's early showers GMA catching up and then overtaking FPJ, seconds said. Thus, votes favorable to FPJ were held back ("juice") and results favorable to GMA were delivered ("juice").

Then, when the pro-GMA cenacra were exhausted and Namfrel had no more choice but to ratify the pro-FPJ results, Mehols said, it stopped its quick count with GMA still ahead. Namfrel stopped with 39 percent of the votes still uncounted although the contract for its accreditation by the Comelec required it to finish its count. Jimenez pointed out. Namfrel doesn't finish the count even after the proclamation of GMA. Bravo pro, he said, it should be thanked by an independent and non-partisan body like the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

That was also how two TV quick counts did their counting—by stopping their counts while GMA was ahead. He said. The Social Chantrel IV count even showed FPJ catching up, the Superintendent of Justice stopped it.

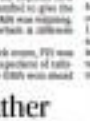
Comparing Namfrel's precinct-based tally with those of the Comelec's precinct-based tally, Jimenez said there were big discrepancies in favor of GMA. While they agreed very closely in Ilocos, Eastern Visayas and Cagayan Valley, there were huge discrepancies in ARMM, Western Mindanao and Northern Mindanao "where FPJ enjoyed vast GMA areas."

"A major discrepancy in favor of GMA in Mindanao, where FPJ's lead was slashed from 266,328 to 83,000. Other discrepancies in favor of GMA occurred in four regions. A major discrepancy was found in Central Luzon (FPJ lead up by 80,161) and a minor discrepancy in Bicol, Metro Manila and Cebu.

"The Comelec internal count showed a huge discrepancy in favor of GMA, but Namfrel over FPJ increasing from 324,984 to 1,309,837 (2.8 percent) and the acquired votes changed from 9.5 to 19.3% (close to 9-1 in GMA's favor. "This means that their GeC made do not match with the voter candidate ER totals," Jimenez wrote.

The weather

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THE WEATHER seemed pretty unnerving, but it never really broke into a storm. The wind seemed blowing quite fortunately toward none. It was bright and warm in the early morning with only the hint of a breeze. I knew because the light jutsawi into my window. My desk is one one of the windows.—French type, I remembered the blurb from the brochure the first time I came into this housing project proudly proclaiming each unit as such—but the breeze didn't disturb those now, though on a good night, when orange lamp-shades adorn them, they are not bad to look at. And it was warm enough because I had to switch on an electric fan as "I" to keep off the noises of early morning workers who were changing their duty shifts.

I was glad for the momentary misery of light though after seeing a lot of grey last week. There was a slight drizzle when I stepped back into Make Inn Thursday night. But if the weather promised tomorrows on the window of the plane a spit second before streaking across it as the cities screeched on the runway and in aisles and bank lanes angrily sending a jet of rolling mist trailing behind, several passengers clapped since the day and ten a hour made the cops of the seats in double-giving for a safe journey but most of all I gave for being home. Some hadn't been at it some time. I knew that from somebody yelling from several seats back each plan. "Dapat na ang lupa! Lupa ko ito! Pinagpa-ti!"

I was worried for a moment the traffic would be last it was always as such time a stranded in worse, mixed. It was very strange, the time when traffic piled up at Ortigas. The strange thing, it didn't. It was one of those strange days that deserved expression, in this case absolutely pleasantly. There was traffic, but it was moving even if it fell in a resort mountain pace.

I was telling a couple of newfound friends in Sofitel Hotel—but in the Philippines, we only had pony mark-ups kinds of wonders. Lot of sun and lots of rain. I was exaggerating, of course, in answer to the question whether it got very cold here or any value of the year. I said we, but really except in some parts of the country, such as Mountain Province, and except during those times when the winds from Siberia have all the way to Manila and focus in residents' bins. That happens every now and then, not very often. Known human the weather is messed up everywhere in the world.

They nodded vigorously as they listened to me. El Niño, La Niña—those things pretty much ravaged the northern Spanish countryside, too, and revealed layers on the wheat and potato. Farmers used to be more reliable than the weather forecasters, being able to tell a storm brewing or chill catch the accuracy of a Greek Oracle. Not so anymore. Even they couldn't read the signals anymore.

I told them I was in Dalandan only last April, and the Japanese had the same complaints. The weather pattern used to blame like clockwork from south to north from time immemorial. When inside the cherry blossoms spread over that they did not last long, they had a life span of a week or so. While celebrated cherry in the Japanese who move them are people on travels whenever the blooming of cherry blossoms and spontaneously. Until, even the cherry blossoms were behaving oddly. This year, they bloomed late in Tokyo, which was in the north, than in Fukuoka, which was in the south. It was no longer clockwork, a thing that pisses off the Japanese. They are even thinking of making a commercial for time immemorial.

But it wasn't so bad in this country. I told my friends, for the lack of variety in weather, for things you getting too cold or too hot. Cities in particular Metro Manila's teeming, homeless and street children, who add whole new dimensions to the man-hood and -woman' road, none relax about having the sky for their canopy and the sun to keep their company. Even this, some weren't so bad. I saw now a group of seven children, I suspected not one of them past 10, break into a game or a sudden downpour and the rush of floodwaters. They were looking for water trembling into the gutter and the sun shining on their faces. For one brief, fleeting moment, they were children again (it probably for the first time in their lives).

I saw a fantastic sight coming home last week. The sun was up, light bristled inside the plane through the tinted windows, when it no declared intention to bother friends. The clouds were dark and thick, and the plane shook while we were past them. When we broke free of them, I beheld another world. It was gray and dark and rainy in one instant, the world was bathed in sunlight, in another the showed up in clouds in rain. And for a bank of clouds to separate them, it gave new insights to the saying that however dark things are, somewhere in the world the sun is shining.

The weather yesterday morning yesterday globe of rain splattered on as my ice fingers Porsche windows before sweeping across the pane, whipped up by a driving wind. The wind rushed the leaves on the branches of trees that overhang my windows. There's a new show that has replaced the company of cities and the sunrise by the neighborhood mannequin in here it is mannequin with constant swimming it leaves all over with life, pushing its way all the way to the fourth floor (mine is on third), its back twigs climbing across the walls of buildings, an invisible force moving an immovable object. The wind shook the twigs violently and leaved through the leaves. I didn't know if the rains would fall one eventually, it always seemed to storm in weather like that, but it never did.

Today, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be inaugurated as the new President. I can't think of anything more important to write about than the weather.

End of euphoria

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE INAUGURATION of a new government today marks the beginning of hard times and puts an abrupt end to euphoria. President Macapagal-Arroyo has defined the duties of her new presidency as "continuity and simplicity." Days ahead of the inauguration, the National Power Corp. burst the euphoria with the announcement that the power crisis would increase more than double to 2,000 to 3,000 megawatts every day, dumping right away on the lap of the new government the burden of providing relief to its consumers in misery at the polls.

Another problem immediately confronted the new government that it has little time to spare in smashing the fiscal deficit and public debt. The Asian Development Bank has joined the thoughtful chorus in the Cabinet clamoring for the administration to undertake a credit program to raise revenues. The ADB said the ratio of revenue to gross domestic product, which was 14.4 percent in the year ended up to 14.1 percent this year, with the prospect of the government scurrying to finance the deficit as close the gap. Despite financial Secretary Rafael Buenaventura emphasized the urgency of drastic reforms to raise revenue, spur economic growth and encourage larger investment flows.

The ADB said the tax reform package pending in Congress, a paper prepared by the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations recommends gain normative that time echoed by the meetings of Buenaventura and the ADB. The paper underlined the need to raise the ratio of revenue to GDP gradually to 18 percent. The underlines the urgency of a crash program to catch up with the fast growing Asian economies. Government economists forecast 2.5 percent GDP growth this year, but this is one measure that might be highly wishful complacency.

The CPI paper said:

"The sluggish rate made it difficult for the Philippines to address important tasks such as poverty alleviation (a key concern of the Pena Arroyo's program) and building or strengthening infrastructure. At present, 40 percent of the population of 90 million lives on $2 per day or less.

"High population growth, currently 2.36 percent per year, affects economic progress. One can't say goods in the Philippines was 36 percent, for example, 1870 and 2000."

On the deficit, the paper said the government aimed to balance the budget by 2009, but it points out that "it will not reach the 2009 target unless it accelerates the annual rate of reduction. Share to the point, economists increasingly fear that even a successful five-year deficit reduction plan will not bring it to zero."

The economic business report investor and the immediate launching of initiatives that are likely to cause more pain and have woven that stand to lose from not taking reform programs is known. It is more for a political honeymoon for the administration.

In political term, the administration cannot expect a honeymoon. The opposition will not give her that relief. Even as this stage the opposition, still smarting from its defeat, is more concerned about making things difficult for the administration than welcoming any opportunity to cooperate, to prevent the President from producing results.

A key to the opposition's attitude is that of Ilocanos Manila, an alliance of Ilocanos. Ilocanos has rallied for an anti-government alliance based on opposing alleged cheating during the elections to the administration coalition. The planned campaign foreshadows a negative approach that drastically contrasts with that of the new government which seeks to launch right away economic and political reforms that will allow it to "hit the ground running" during its first 100 days.

A honeymoon is something that cannot be expected during the first 100 days. The President should be more realistic than to expect a period of sweetness and light, which is not in the cards. A political honeymoon is a romantic notion, given the institutionalize nature of the late elections. From day one of the new administration, the public should expect to take some hard medicines.

The hair way the administration can answer the true-point resistance campaigns of the opposition is to put things done immediately. The public will judge her by the results, especially the theirs-to-results that will show the are drivers.

In short, the inauguration is the beginning of pain, turbulent pain, there is no gain.

The first test to the mettle of government's directions are the resignations of the new Cabinet and the policy package to be launched after the inauguration. A good part of the Cabinet is composed of deadwood. The Cabinet can stand an extensive overhaul, and the time to do it is right after the inaugural. Mr Macapagal is toward some cities who helped overwhelmingly in the campaign. But the distributions of rewards need not be incompatible with forming a dynamic Cabinet that will take in the best talents to run the government.

The President's statement that the new administration is not a complete break from the past and administration does not encourage expectations of dynamic change. She has said that we can also continue some of the good programs of the past programs. Elections are almost without exception about change for the better. Continuity for its own sake means stagnation and retardation in shake the status quo. The President's role point in power is to change things for the better, and to prevent successful during the campaign. how it requires revision, its assignment countries to part, for instance, has taken fund benefits.

Sewing for boys, soccer for girls

Michael L. Tan

MORE: you for your son, or grandson, or nephew asked a design into his interior pants?

Okay, so maybe the time who, tend my column are a bit more liberal than average and wouldn't see any problems there, but when Gilda Cordero-Fernando told me last September how proud she was about a pair of pants she had, with a design her grandson had notched in, I was thrilled. And I was even more excited when I learned that he did this at school, as an assignment in their art class in Jersey.

I think it's exciting short of revolution any that a Filipino boy might express sewing, even if as an art project. It's time for the country that will count as much as any revolutionary the full potentials of young people.

While we prescribe or hurried an activity and for this to greater and more creative expression, we must be careful not to stereotype young people. Prohibiting a male from, say, taking piano lessons, in many Asian fathers do, is crushing a message that music is general is a female domain and that males artes dedicate in this, including an appreciation of music, especially classical music. Art classes for junior just "don't fit" "but then don't call males" classes. The key is that the very same males fathers who won't let their sons take ballet lessons will prefer to high lessons some jazz or rock keyboard artist, not realizing their sons could have one day become one of those artists if they hadn't been so narrowminded about gender roles.

Last June 17, Sofia Mossad wrote a scathing column entitled "Beauty contests begin early" in BusinessWorld, questioning a policy of the Bacoor schools concerning school sports. Men, and sports essentially from area mall of someone complaining about the policy." Basically, it says soccer and basketball are for boys, while cheerleading and dancing are for girls. Mossad wrote: "Such gender guidelines only reinforce the prevailing qualities of machismo recommitment among female students."

She continues quoting from the e-mail: "Because these sports are highly aggressive, and they cause injuries that may harm the reproductive system of the girls. Because these sports are highly competitive, the girls will be unable to develop the girls' nurturing, hardened, gentle, tenacious and kind, rather than increasing, caring, gracious, refined and compassionate."

Apparently, there are school from most girls developing a "sensitive" and "feminine" and to "soften sensitiveness in developing ..." Provided information on size sports are "appropriate" among feminine sports, such as dancing, gymnastics, aerobics, table tennis and swimming."

I am actually not Hazel's point these issues and basketball being "aggressive" sports, but we forget that it is unfair when we limit the choices of our children. "Let sports" can be, since so-called "feminine" prefer lesser sports or isn't aggressive when we sure emphasize the competitive aspects. For all the talk about performance sports being "feminine," we know we have many these sports are become. I can't remember their names, but I have been there at many tennis matches and seen our women dreams known for their feet tactics against fellow competitors.

The need to rule in silicone, no matter who put hoisted in the process, is not counterintuitive or fundamentally driven. This competition is socially-defined and may socially sanctioned. I look at the Olympics, and I see the best athletes of the ones who are running the country and you will find that their ranks include both males and females, and they get their best because there are always enough finds to associate their behaviors, sometimes even pursuing those accidents for having "aggressive."

That is why I'm making such a big deal about sewing for boys. Sewing teaches foresight. (Yes, you plan before you sew) and patience, and by limiting that activity to females, we shouldn't be surprised if our males are so impulsive and impatient. A society of males, where a controversial pilot, may decide to fly into a building because he was upset at the end of dozen long land flights. I imagine the pilots even considering and having only time if they were playing cards and getting all bested up over losing. No, they're just about to get into a fistfight over some misunderstanding!

There is also the need for socialization in schools than sewing and soccer. A report that came out many time back in the United States, entitled "How Schools Short-change Girls," included some rather startling findings that should make Filipino teachers more vigilant about how we deal with our students. For example, the report noted that in elementary and high schools, boys are more likely to be called on and encouraged to take their hands to new time, but when boys did the same thing, teachers would just let them continue talking. Should it be surprising then that boys usually have been found to call out answers eight times more often than girls? Another finding was that teachers tend to criticize boys more than girls are "basically" more aggressive.)

The report also found that teachers tended to give more praise and feedback to their male students. And when it was verbally involved or physically tethered girls, teachers would dismiss such behavior as a joke or as a "boys being boys" syndrome.

In sewing students over adolescents, they're often plagued by self-doubt. Not surprisingly, these platitudes of self-esteem are stronger with the females, precisely because the schools have short-changed them.

Different studies on the difference on how schools in the Philippines deal with gender through curriculum, coaching styles and subjects assigned to males and females. Next, we need to look at how the schools interface with homes to shape young people's personalities, for example, in terms of self-esteem.

I'm not just worried about our girls turning into shy and non-assertive shrinking violets. We can also see a reversal effect; I worry about "alpha girls" in colleges, those who become so aggressively obnoxious as some of their male classmates. And for both males and females, I often suspect the effects of behavior that are exaggerations of gender-role stereotypes. Basically, we're allowing these unfortunate sexual gender issues, for example, of feminine artist of having been suggested to doubt about being more "female" and of gay leader who were forced to suppress their sexuality and who deny their own "preferences" in order to be accepted by their peers. Gender is a many and work that problems rooted in families and in elementary and high schools, in how they were assigned/selected into gender typecasts.

Let the boys sew, let the girls play soccer, but more importantly, teach them to understand that while there's much to celebrate in our differences, we must also learn to see beyond labels to be found in breaking out of the restrictive gender stereotypes to discover our humanity.

Places of hope

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IUBAT years after the end of what has been called the "genocidal" bloodshed in Rwanda, a group of Hutu and Tutsi women, many of them elderly widows, decided to get together and embark on a project. "We need to do something with our hands," they said, "or we will just go crazy from our grief." They also hoped that somehow, the project would at the same time give them healthier and more wholesome means of income, while helping heal the wounds of strife.

The widows' association decided to return to time-tested traditions and revive the ancient art of basket weaving, using indigenous materials and designs. Where before they had to rely on middlemen to sell their products, the women now have the help of Trifa, a company that specializes in the marketing of arts and crafts by indigenous peoples, based abroad. It has decided to visit the widows and take orders for their baskets.

"Basically, we plan to tell our customers that 'every widow tells a story.' And the baskets of the widows have a story, particularly as well," Tobon said. From the time they decided to market the "peace baskets," the widows have been busy weaving and selling them. Tobon said they have sold close to 10,000 baskets, making it one of their most successful lines.

Just recently Tobon revealed, the president of Rwanda paid a visit to the widows' association and met with the folks at Trifa. The reason was clear. The "peace baskets" are now the No. 1 non-agricultural export product of Rwanda to the United States. And not just that, the baskets, and the weaving skills, have "created demand" the image of the country as well.

* * *

SADOT sat on the plenary panel on a planned international conference in Toronto and Alaska, particularly for its indigenous communities, presented other similar opportunities held in Washington, D.C., and in an increasing number of developing nations around the world. Thanks to the wonders of information technology, the conferencing, Tobon and other panel members—Bonnie Wheeler, CEO of MediaGiving, and Julie Kibbe, one of the organizers of the forthcoming symposium—were able to address an audience in Alaska simultaneously with a panel in Hong Kong and in the quarters of the local World Bank office in the Philippines.

Both the Peruvians and Filipino panels were composed of members whose mission is not a just who had taken part in a development marketplace, a project of the World Bank that seeks to encourage the creation and preservation of indigenous culture, like weaving, that are economically private and applicable in the local setting, making it become they spring from the experiences, needs and capacities of the people themselves.

Opening up the marketplace for the projects, in partnership with the "peace baskets," I am moved to share the story of the "wine trash for paper" project in Bukidnon, one of the winners from last year's "Pamilihang Pasaan" competition that brought Tobon and Wheeler to the Philippines. In Sinanglan, the Bacillus project saves from a decade of local leaders to reap the benefits of peace, or across the mountains of Bukidnon. The paper mates decided to use the destruction of wine paper bottles and narrow necks for handicrafts and transform them into "peace products" like bills and gongs, both used to call people to community gatherings.

While the project provides skills training and work for out-of-school youth, it also gives the organizers an opening to lead communities to introduce peace education. "The trash for peace" class has many levels with a single sense: environmental protection, peace education, providing poor young people with skills and an occupation, and helping communities in conflict to arrive at peaceful co-existence.

* * *

All I share with the Alaskan participants, one of the few learnings I took from my two-day stint as a juror in "Pamilihang Pasaan" was how creative and broad is the field of "development." When we say "development," we shouldn't think of just infrastructure or income generation, but also the enrichment of local traditions and cultures, protection of the environment, justice and peace, education and communications, gender equality, health delivery—the whole gamut of human concerns.

The two members on the Manila panel demonstrated the breadth of the issues. One, with the UP Diliman, is a physicist, an engineer, an industrial designer and a professor of DIKA, evidence in the involvement of social scientists in development. The other, a physician and distribution of sound device evidence gathering into the world make DNA analysis more accessible to poor communities. The other, with the Ateneo de Manila University, is a medical anthropologist. Cheryll Ann Ong who teach intermediate anthropological values such as environmental awareness to students in the high schools.

Creative and collaborative, as well as the organizers of the local committee with the World Bank Manila office succeeding in expanding the original $300,000 prize fund to the eventual $1.2 million prize pool by securing partners like the Asian Development Bank, the Japanese Embassy, the European Union, as well as international and local foundations.

* * *

KPMG, who heads the Blackout Hunter Organization, spoke for the participants when she said that indigenous communities "taken feel isolated and ignored, that an area's paying attention." And now, through the development marketplace and the "peace basket" project, she said "you are linking us with the rest of the world."

Generally as illustrated in the Bukidnon conference, as well as the Peru panel, two of whom represented a winning project in ethnic tourism in the province of the Bukidnon coffee on their heritage, I realized that all people share a common mood: the need to hope and believe in a better future. The development marketplace thrives on that hope and finds results in efforts that is innovative and in our communities.

* * *

Continue my website at jimenez@inner.ph.

The Quezon inaugural

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EARLY this morning, President Macapagal-Arroyo will take her oath of office at the Quirino Grandstand. Her term will be for six years, from noon, June 30, 2010, ending at noon when it was like.

"Assemblage in the Legislative Building. The [All] Secretary of State and the Governor General will drive together from Malacañan Palace to the inauguration. Governorship preceded by a cavalry escort. The President-elect will drive from his residence from his residence in Bonny to the Senate of Commonwealth preceded by a cavalry escort.

"7:30 o'clock a.m. The vice dean of the Legislative Building will be opened only to the following persons: Members of the Congress, and their wives, who, upon arrival, will be escorted to their respective assembly places as follows:

"At the Office of the President of the Philippine Senate. The Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the [All] House of Representatives, the [All] Secretary of War, the Governor General of the Philippine Islands, the President-elect of the Philippines, the Vice President of the Philippines, the Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court, the Associate Justices of the Philippine Supreme Court.

"At the Senate Hall of the Philippine Senate. The President Pro Tempore of the Philippine Senate, the Members of the [All] Senate, House of Representatives and the Members of the Philippine Senate.

"At the Session Hall of the House of Representatives: The Speaker Pro Tempore of the Philippine House and Members of the Philippine Senate.

"7:45 o'clock a.m. The procession will march into the ceremonial stand in the following order will be announced by a bugle call which will be the signal for silence and attention. The Vice Governor and Members of the Philippine Senate, the Governor and Members of the Philippine Senate, the Associate Justices of the Philippine Supreme Court, members of the Philippine Bar Association, Philippine Senate, members-elect of the National Assembly, Commander-in-Chief Senate, Commanding General [All Army Visiting Alexanders of the [All] House of Representatives [26 Senate Members] Senate, Chief of Staff [All] Vice President John Sanior Gardner and Speaker of the Senate Joseph Byrns, the Speaker of the Philippine House, Chief Justice, and the Vice President-elect of the Philippines.

"8:30 o'clock a.m. The procession of the following officials will be announced by a bugle call which will be the signal for the audience to rise: The Governor General and the President-elect, the [All] Secretary of War. Upon the appearance of the Secretary of War at the entrance of the ceremonial stand, four Cadets and four Members will be assigned, and as he advances to his seat. Chief Cadet will be present. The National Colors. As soon as the Secretary of War has reached the American [ancient] Archers will be placed after which the audience will take their seats. The Filipino scouts will be home by soldiers from the Philippine Constabulary; the American colors by soldiers from the [All] Army.

"8:35 o'clock a.m. Invocation Cuttled M. Byrns D.D., Archbishop of Cebu. Introduction of the Secretary of War by [All] Frank Murphy, Governor General Administer to the Hon. George H. Dern, Secretary of War, the following oath of office: 'I, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Secretary of War, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Philippines.' So help me God."

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Proclamation of the Secretary of War, on behalf of the President of the United States, that Honorable Philippine Commission now sitting upon its rights, privileges, powers, and duties, as provided in the Constitution of the Philippines."

"8:40 o'clock a.m. Inaugural Address by [All] Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines."

After the inaugural parade at 9:30, Quezon proceeds to Malacañang escorted by the cavalry. At the gates, Palace Guards take over and escort him to his first official entry into Malacañang just before

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Stop idiotism on TV

LETTERS

I AM a grandmother of two lovely kids who are burdened with new knowledge and ideas. This last letter has to write the most abhorrending news stories and heroes telling someone to the effects of medical children's behavior.

Obviously, TV stands TV with my grandchildren, and I must admit that there are some programs that I find unfit for them. All I could do is remind them that they should not believe what they see on TV, particularly those which tend to distort values and morality.

I am not surprised that the youngest of my grandchildren, a 5-years-old girl, has memorized commercial jingles and some lines from TV programs. She knows Martha, Mr. knows Dagong, I've also heard her classic "Gandal" (I had to ask my grandchildren's family about it, and she told me that it is a reality show in one of the network's giant TV networks.)

The times have really changed. When I was a child, TV hardly caught my attention. TV broadcasting then was just starting, kaibigan; cartoon and horror games with my brothers and sisters, books made my life. Reading is one habit that I have instilled from my children.

Now, every household has at least one TV set, and children spend hours watching TV programs, with or without parental guidance. I would sometimes tell my children to choose programs for my grandchildren, but they would not do that all the time especially when they are working and the children are left with their nanny.

In spite of the modern age, I still believe that children should grow old with values. They are what we call "the hope of the future," the ones who must take over our nation from sinking. But how can they lead our nation if, this early, their minds are corrupted by so much nonsense and violence practically being glorified in TV shows?

I appeal to our TV stations to please be responsible because while they may be reaping huge profits now, the future of young Filipinos is being doomed by the naiveté of their shows.

I also encourage parents to please share children from watching unwholesome TV programs. Let us just take it as endless and yet effective prayer against the "bonanzation" of our young.

—EDELAIDA FERAER,
Subang, Cavite

No 'absentee votes' in some countries

TOD refers to the news article "Senators off Absentee Voting Law sought," (TOD, 6/25/04)

We wish to confirm that, indeed, no voter can file her vote in some countries including Norway, Uganda, Afghanistan, Paraguay, Bhutan, Poland, Portugal, Haiti, Botswana and Mozambique in the May 2004 national elections.

Here that the Overseas Absentee voting act requires that the casting of votes be held in Philippine embassies and consulates. Since we do not maintain embassies or consulates in these countries, the registered voters there, which number from one to nine in each country, were not able to cast their votes.

We hope this explains why there were no votes in some countries.

—RAMEL E. TECLE,
chair, Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat, undersecretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Farcical worship

I TV-5DX there were many memorable readers of the kingdom who connected with El Oskinny Otin, 6/29/04) in his letter calling attention to the "spiritual tipperary" of the worshippers at the Iloi Aguinti Church, led by the Manila archbishop and a former president.

Apparently turned off by this "public display of twisted worship" on television ever, Dakanay hinted that God "seems to have abandoned us" because the kind of worship "is outgoing divine insult." To which I fully agree.

I remember another "whistleblower" who followed a similar train of thought as Dakanay's. A foreigner, Robert Fraser, not too long ago, wrote to the hypocrisy, "I would think any essential powers would have long ago come to the conclusion that the Philippines has been abandoned by God."

If we have such discerning voices as today from the likes of Dakanay, Fraser and other non-

and pastors, it is because in spite of the many prayers offered in public places for the hollow pharisaic traditions—Correa, Eden Harrier, PICC,... the power and national unity they always seek from heaven have not been forthcoming. Or, could it be true that God has really isolated the entire way?

—EDGAR SALVADOR,
Rabbit Drives,
Barangay 1, Subicay,
Barangay 4229

Judges need Congress, too for protection

ON JUNE 11 media carried the sad news about the brutal killing in Barangay of Judge Antonio Antonio Bautista, the seventh regional trial court judge slain in the line of duty.

Senior Asset reporter (sons), the widow of Bautista, crying out for justice, called for reforms in the judiciary to shield judges from avenging sorcerers.

In recent appointments, the Palace has ordered the police to go after the persons responsible for the crime and the crime via previous killings of judges, all of which remain unresolved.

Congress can do its part, the Senate, for one, by acting on the long pending bills relating to creation Republic Act 9165, the anti-quarrel retirement law for judges, and to give to the judges the so-called "last package" benefit for surviving spouses and qualified surviving children. It may be recalled that this benefit is at present enjoyed by all civil servants except, yes, judges.

Once more, we appeal to the Senate, particularly Senators Edgardo Angara, Aquilino Pimentel and Senate President Franklin Drilon to speed up the deliberation and final enactment into law of the aforementioned measures, so will come to the swift realization, but too late, that the bullets the hand of these retribution may be used by them or our immediate relatives."

—ATTY. A. SANTIAGO,
Makati City

And now, some words from Carlos P. Garcia

IT IS RIGHT to take time alone the need to recall the words of the late President Carlos P. Garcia in a letter to the University of Rio, Tomas on April 24, 1969.

Garcia urged us to reflect on the values that are the "most fundamental, essential and indispensable bastion of patriotism in democracy in the building of peace, free, alone, peaceful and honest elections."

"Our elections today benefit a hundred others by imitation or vocation, and these evils disrupt patriotism and threaten our democracy on the occasion of our people, sometimes their beloved, bending wholesomeness, de-

—MARIA ULA B. SANTOS,
head, Tagaig Public Information Office, Municipality of Tagaig, General A. Luna Street, Poblacion, Tagaig, Metro Manila

Tagaig on 'Team Tagaig'

TOD is in reaction to an item in my last column (6/29/04) on "Team Tagaig" (PDI, 6/28/04)

We are thankful that Agusan recognized the fact that The Fort is within the jurisdiction of Tagaig.

It is true that Mayor Freddie B. Tinga's administration is doing its efforts in developing the Food Terminal Inc. and The Fort. This former military camp, which has been privatized, is now serving as an important for our town's growth. And The Fort is now the gateway to a more progressive Tagaig.

We acknowledge the fact that Brgy. Comm. Councilor Aurelio Pando "Ali" Barcelona, with his impressive educational background and expertise, will be an asset to the Sangguniang Bayan.

But I would like to correct the information that Mayor Tinga has appointed Barcelona as chair of a business development committee in charge of The Fort and ITI Inc. cause there is no such committee. All matters pertaining to the development of these two key growth areas are being handled by senior officials of the local government as part of their executive functions.

The local government, the Sangguniang Bayan, the business sector and the people of Tagaig, will always pool together for the continued advancement of Tagaig as a whole.

Tagaig is just now getting recognition and, over the next few years, we expect Tagaig to be the premier development area in Metro Manila as we now brace for investment.

—MARIA ULA B. SANTOS,
head, Tagaig Public Information Office, Municipality of Tagaig, General A. Luna Street, Poblacion, Tagaig, Metro Manila

A very humble, very good priest

All I read the early about a certain priest suddenly to death in Dagupan (PDI, 6/14/04), I was struck by the description given by the parishioners of the dials priest "A very humble person." "Hindi ang ibang pari na madaling magsalita ng wikang pag-unawa sa kanila." He was the only priest who readily spoke about after giving mass a personal "Hello, how are you?" Fr. Rony Romero "did his own laundry, ironed his clothes, and cleaned his room." It felt not only natural but also deep love for the Church. There goes another good priest, another humble disciple and witness to his divided priests. I never met Father Rony, but I felt a need to thank him, his parishioners and his congregation for giving us this simple, humble, dedicated priest.

Later that day, I met Sr. Pat Fuertes, MCI. I shared with her my feelings about Father Rony. Since Pat's her classy, sharing what she knew about Father Rony, who was close to their congregation.

"It was Father Rony who taught us the feminist spirit," Sister Pat narrated. "He inspired us to bring to voice the Divine Office. He was a good catechist. He had a lovely voice when praised God in song and communal prayer. He was always simple, humble and rarely talked about himself. He was a good priest, a very good priest."

Two days later, I had a chat with another Dominican, Fr. Gerard Lobaton about Father Rony. "Father Rony was my mentor when I was interested to Calapan, one of the islands of Batanes. One particular story is that one time we either ran out of food or funds and water. He

learned to listen. I remember once harvesting camote for lunch. One very dramatic experience I shared with Father Rony happened one Holy Wednesday when we were on our way to Calapan Island for the Holy Thursday services. We left at around 9:30 a.m. for a 45-minute pump boat ride. However, a storm brewed which terribly and frightfully slowed down our trip. Ang lakas ng Sto. Domingo Church ang mga alon. (The waves were as big as the Sto. Domingo Church.) We were both seated, but Father Rony kept his composure. He kept an eye on his scapular and carefully prayed our pump boat away from the towering waves, yet leaving me way closer and closer to our destination. After the storm has already subsided, we reached Calapan. God wanted to teach our lost first before we presided over the Liturgy of the Washing of the Feet the following day.

"Tomorrow I can have that was a preparation for his untimely death. He didn't die at sea but he died in a place called Dagupan dagupan."

This priest rode a bicycle when he was his assistant, surely, it would have been a different story if he were driving a car.

Simple priests, like the poor, remain vulnerable. Their lives are Gospel, the loving and faithful living out of the Spirit of Jesus who walked, preach, touched, ate, lived with the poor and died as a sign of embracing God's boundless love.

—FR. ROBERTO P. REYES,
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Lipunan ng Kapwa Pilipino, Project 6, Quezon City

Henman keeps British bid alive

RODDICK reacts versus Popp.

LONDON—Top seeds Roger Federer and Andy Roddick eased through to the Wimbledon quarterfinals on Monday where they were joined by Tim Henman who kept his dream of becoming the first British men's champion in 68 years alive in thrilling style.

Reigning champion Federer toppled Croatian giant Ivo Karlovic, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5), as set up a classic last eight clash with 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia who beat a thrilling Center Court rookie against Spain's Carlos Moya 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3).

Roddick, the second seed, reached the last eight, and a clash against Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, with a 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 win against Germany's Alexander Popp.

But the day's main drama was saved until last when Henman, the fifth seed and four times a semifinalist, reached the eighth quarterfinal of his All England Club career with a nerve-shredding 6-2, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/1) Center Court victory over Mark Philippoussis.

After making the last eight into Henman's Wimbledon debutante Florian Mayer who beat Joachim Johansson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Meanwhile, 26-year old French woman Tatiana Golovin set up a dream Wimbledon fourth round clash with defending women's champion Serena Williams and admitted that the thought of being the next American load of meat shattered her composure. AFP

Espino in UST All-Stars game

PBA idols Jerome Espino of Sta. Lucia Realty, Bey Evangelista of Purefoods and Pido Jarencio head an all-star cast of former Thomasians that will face the present UST Growling Tigers in an exhibition match on July 2 at 5 p.m. at the UST gym. Espino and Evangelista led the Tigers' last pool in the '90s while Jarencio was King Goldie of the '80s. The event dubbed as "UST All Stars Week" will also see the school's UAAP Jrs squaring off with collegiate and commercial squads such as PBA laureate Hamilcar and NCBAer D. Franco.

LIPA HELD RUN START

Thousands of runners answer the starting gun in the 28th National Milo Marathon in Lipa City on Sunday. Crowned over listed topped the men's division while Mila Puja ruled the distaff side. Present during the awards rites were Pat Gio Chig, Milo Sports executive, and event organizer Rudy Biscocho.

SPORTSWATCH

Netters Thailand-bound

7th Danny Espiritu Cup

Saguisan championship

Hatawan features 71 fights

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

E-mail: ... Across the NATION Nation Editor Tony Bergonia

IMAGES OF MINDANAO
This is one of the more than 200 photographs currently on tour in an exhibit organized by the Philippine Center for Photojournalism (PCP).

Workers pin hopes for wage hike on party-list groups

DAVAO CITY—Organized workers said they were banking on party-list groups to realize their demand for a legislated wage increase when Congress opens next month.

Pushing for wage increases in Congress would effectively shift the battle from the streets in the country's lawmaking body, a confusing arena for most of the labor movement's Mindanao-based leaders.

But Jasper Sumada, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in the region, said although they are "shifting gears," they would still continue to maintain the streets.

"We expect party-list groups to fight for us in Congress," Sumada said.

He said they were supporting party-list groups in regionwide push for wage increases because of the recent increases in oil prices and the increase in prices of commodities.

"... We expect it to be on top of the agenda of party-list groups," Omar Sarmayan, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in southern Mindanao, said.

Workers are demanding a P1,000 immediate emergency relief allowance on top of the P125 increase in the daily minimum wage and P5,000 across-the-board increase for government workers.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said the party-list group was forming up an alliance with other groups in Congress although it is also expecting stiff resistance from "big business interests groups" that dominate the House.

Virador said his group would support the bill for a P125 increase in the workers' daily minimum wage as soon as Congress opens.

He said House Minority would also push for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law, a version of the new power law, and focus on other concerns such as for the rural and mining industries in the country.

Gamaliel Cordoba, PDI Mindanao Bureau

₱100M needed to repair flood damage

COTABATO CITY—At least P100 million is needed to rehabilitate several towns of North Cotabato and Maguindanao that were hit by flash floods that damaged agriculture and public works projects, and displaced thousands of families.

Virgilio Leyretana, deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao, has mobilized relief organizations to assist the flash flood-hit areas of Alamada, Libungan, Pigcawayan and Midsayap, all of North Cotabato, Pahad Kudarat, Kidapawan, Buluan, Sultan Mastura, Datu Hoog, Sultan sa Barongis, Ampatuan, Buluan, Datu Piang, Datu Montawal, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Salibo, Datu Piang, Datu Paglas

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

After Jun Bautista
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Getting into trouble with toponymy

By Russell Aruder
Concepcion, Tarlac

The beginning of wisdom
is to call things by their right names.
— Chinese proverb

AN OLD tale in Concepcion, Tarlac, tells of a Kapampangan girl and her aunt who were taking a morning bath in a river in the town. Suddenly the girl cried out: "Dare, ing bal-bal ya! (Auntie, your pubic hair is showing!)"

In a result of the aunt's unwitting exhibitionism, the place where the story flowed came to be known as Balen Barabalbal.

Though popular among Concepcion residents, the origin of Balen Barabalbal's name is now only "vulgar" but also incorrect, according to historian Gary Dizon.

"It should not be, 'Barabal bal' as an old Kapampangan word for gushing liquid, as in 'dalupdalupal ing dugu lekasad ni apu Sing,'" Dizon said.

The word "has something to do with the loud bubbling sound of river water, usually as it rounds," he said.

Barabalbal's origin, he said, is a "classic case" of how "toponyms and etymological clues ... are often filled with blatant misinformation and anachronisms."

This was the reason why "in the past, toponymy, or the study of place names, was not taken seriously by Philippine scholars except in the fictional areas of folklore and literature," Dizon said.

Multicolored

But when dealing with the Kapampangans—described by another scholar as having "a history that is almost erased and a culture that is ... multidimensional and multicolored"—some scholars "turn to conventional methodologies," such as the use of names and place names to draw conclusions about their history and culture.

One such work of scholarship is Dr. Rodrigo Javier's "The Kapampangans: Speakers, Surnames and Identity." Seeking to understand the Kapampangan identity, the 242-page book traces the etymologies of Kapampangan surnames in an attempt to characterize them as a people.

In a chapter titled "Revisions of the Kapampangan Surname," Javier defines the surname Mercapar as a verb meaning "to run." "But to mean the word in a sentence, it does not say 'Mamapar' ne king (their) apara ding mendan (The people are already tired with Gloria)."

Rather, he says "E mapar-pal ing mapar karing sising mengapapar (It is not trying to help the needy)."

Small wonder, though. The book is dedicated to Feruktero Mayapar-Ocampo, who won over actor Fernando Poe Jr. in the unofficial 2004 presidential elections.

Another story in Heath list of more than 500 Kapampangan surnames is Lapid, which, he said, is a verb meaning "to top off." Then there are Anlagan, "to support," and Salingpit, "to spot, floating, unmoored. Used to keep Macaraeg, to name pair, Hidlao's possible, Pangilinan, to shimmer, Punsa, elated, and Sisat, brilliance.

In his review of "The Kapampangans," Roberto Tarabigan, executive director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies based at the Holy Angel University in Angeles City, noted that the book "has a very short bibliography."

This, he said, "shows that the author did not have a lot of empirical evidence on which he had to build his thesis."

Tarabigan also observed that, in his research into the regional ogy of indigenous Kapampangan surnames, Javier relies heavily on the Spanish-Kapampangan dictionary of the Augustinian friar Diego Bergaño, published in 1732 and reprinted in 1860, "which sometimes are less Kapampangan, terms that are no longer in use today."

Common sense

"Some surnames [Javier] explains by association, sometimes by resemblance, sometimes by translation," he said.

But the lack of materials with which to "retrieve" and "reconstruct" the "lost identity" of the Kapampangans must be a reflection of "the real state of Kapampangan studies today," Tarabigan said.

"True, there are a few books dating back to the Spanish period, solid government records on Pampanga and Tarlac in the National Archives, and a few church documents in the Archdiocese of Manila and the Archdiocese of San Fernando," he said. "Unfortunately, that's about it."

"The mother lode of Kapampangan primary sources is in the inscrutable language of Spanish and is doomed to inscrutable archives in Spain. The little that has survived in Clarke and Pampanga has been destroyed by war, by human negligence and stupidity and by natural calamities like fire, earthquake, flood and the outdoorsy rat of all, la broca," Tarabigan said.

Instead of demanding from Javier and other researchers a body of proof that is difficult to obtain, Tarabigan offered a challenge: "To the citizens of hard evidence, there will do, until they are disproven."

The publication of "serious, territorial researches," such as the one made by Javier, "should jolt our high-sound scholars out of their lethargy and force all to get serious by explaining these things to us," Tarabigan said.

So, is the story about a Kapampangan aunt's display of intimacy in a river true or just a bloody hoax to be proven false perhaps to protect the good name of the virtuous women of Gay-nipsilon, Dumalhidl was renamed Gerardo de Jesus (registered voter: 1,342).

Dumalhidl never ended well but for the fact that the river where Dumalhidl got its name until now remains to be called Bag Baan.

DR. ROGELIO Cobing, president of the Benguet State University is amazed at the endless possibilities that the e-learning system could bring.

E-LEARNING COURSE

State universities go for 'virtual education'

By Maurice Malanes
La Trinidad, Benguet

TEN years or so ago, he had never imagined it unfolding before his eyes in his lifetime. But recently, Dr. Rogelio Cobing, president of the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet, was awed by a synchronized pilot online training course for the school and another state university in Bicol.

In coordination with Microsoft Philippines, the online course was the first to be piloted in the country by the National Computer Center (NCC), an agency under the Department of Science and Technology.

The NCC embarked on the live training course through a memorandum of agreement establishing the center to help state universities and colleges (SUCs) improve information and communication technology.

"We will certainly maximize this electronic learning system for our distance education," said Cobing, as he noted the endless possibilities and opportunities that "virtual education" could bring.

Benguet-Albay link

Through a projected screen at a computer classroom at the BSU, 17 participants took part in a May 31-June 4 online course on MS Access, a database programming system given by its instructor from the NCC in Quezon City.

In exactly the same time, 18 participants hundreds of kilometers away at the Bicol University in Legazpi City in Albay were taking the same course under the same instructor.

How was this possible? This was done through what is called online video-conferencing.

"The beauty of it was that, although virtual, the participants from Bicol and from here would raise questions and the instructor would answer each of them immediately as though the participants were in the same classroom," Cobing said.

Online open forum

Through the online open forum, Cobing noted how the participants in Benguet could learn from the answers to questions raised by their counterparts in Albay and vice-versa.

Helping the NCC instructor were some information technology-literate faculty members at the two state universities.

And providing the electronic infrastructure was the Philippine Research Education Government Information Network (Pregine), a carrier service provider that the NCC maintains.

Daily exam

From 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every day during the training, the instructor would give a written examination, which the participants were required to finish in an hour. Between 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., the participants should have e-mailed their answers to the instructor.

At least 34 people from the Cordillera applied for the training course, but only 17 passed the NCC's validation examination. "This shows that the information technology literate among us are relative," said the Bagiu head of the BSU's management information system division, who helped NCC supervise the seven-day online training course.

Requirements

Those who qualified to join the training were four students from the BSU, five from the Commission on Information and Communications, one from the Department of Education, and one each from the Saint Louis University and the La Trinidad municipal government.

To qualify, the NCC required that the participants have the basics of Windows Operating System and any spreadsheet or database system.

MS Access

After the MS Access course, the trainees, most of them graduating from various fields, could apply their skill in systematizing the database system in their respective offices—be it in auditing, tracking down population growth rate, monitoring literacy rate, urban planning and other work.

After passing the course, the participants, who would be certified and accredited by the NCC, could train others either for free or for a fee.

"Through this training, we are actually creating potential jobs for those who wish to get full-time in information technology," Hale said.

No blackboards

For the BSU, the recent online training course could help revolutionize its distance learning or open university.

"We are now going into an age where learning needs no blackboards and classrooms because lectures can be delivered through the Internet," Sonia said. "And students can interact with their professors through electronic chats, e-mails and video conferencing."

As university president, Cobing also looks forward to using information technology in linking online the BSU's college campuses in the towns of Bagiuo and Bokod, both in Benguet.

Since both towns are inaccessible in land lines, he said, the BSU could possibly use satellite phones, especially if some video-conferencing companies expand their infrastructures to be rural-communities.

Drawback

Once telecommunication infrastructures are in place in the rural towns, the BSU can deliver its lectures, through the municipal governments' technology packages on farming, such as pest control and other farming tips, Cobing said.

Hale, however, noted a drawback in developing the e-learning system in the country: "Not all the equipment of our telecommunications companies are upgraded," she said.

Because of this, she said, it was even clearer for the BSU, for instance, to "widen another" with the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and other universities abroad than with institutions here.

Clearer reception

She credits the clearer "video-conference" reception to the well-developed and government-supported information technology infrastructures of other countries.

Once the backbone for information technology in this country is in place and the cost becomes cheaper, electronic learning can become available to everybody and not only to those who can afford it, Nagpaul said.

Despite these drawbacks, Cobing foresees that e-learning is the wave of the future, and some colleges and universities, which are constrained by budget lack, must keep up with the trend.

What price happiness?

From page B1

open here [now costing A$200 (US$140)] on how he chooses to keep to budget.

Businesses are spending as much as A$8,000 on half-day happiness workshops for their staff.

"You can actually increase your happiness levels. That's value we teach," said Timothy Sharp, founder of the institute that also offers group sessions for A$30a head.

"We take people from zero and try to put a positive in their happiness bank account. You don't have to settle for 50 Others. It's no more OK than having a zero bank balance. You can have a lot more," Sharp told Reuters.

Experts say only about 35 percent of happiness comes from income, assets and other financial factors. As much as 40 percent comes from elements such as attitude, life-control and relationships.

"If you're not a natural to any of these areas, you can learn to put a lot better at them," Sharp said.

The Happiness Institute is part of what US economists Fred Tate Piper calls the "Wellness Revolution." In his book of the same name, Piper says the next billion-dollar industry after cars and information technology will be in preventive businesses that help people find peace, health and happiness.

While most of us are significantly better off financially than our parents and grandparents, happiness levels haven't changed to reflect that.

Basic needs

Studies show that once the basic needs of shelter and food are met, additional wealth adds very little to happiness.

"It's definitely not a guarantee. The difference between someone at say $50,000 a year and someone on $500,000 a year is actually very small. A lot of people are unhappy that," Sharp said.

"The economists are saying, 'Well, sales haven't there been changes? Income on economic measures, there have been huge changes.'"

Craig Barber, the general manager of a hotel in Sydney, had five one-on-one sessions at The Happiness Institute and organized a retreat of four-hour group sessions with Sharp for his staff.

"You could hear a pin drop. As each break I walked around the tables, and there wasn't a doodle in sight. They were so into it, paying so much attention," Barber said.

More sex

Even investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein recently advised its clients not to "square money with happiness."

"A vast array of individuals routinely overrate the importance of money in making themselves, and others, happy," James Montier, the investment bank's strategist, said in a recent memo to clients.

"Since the 1950s, people's happiness levels have been remarkably contained despite a massive growth in income per head over the same time horizon," Montier said.

He identified sex as among the top 10 generators of happiness, alongside sleep, exercise and enjoying the moment. "So what are you waiting for?" the memo said.

A 2005 study of 1,000 working women also found that sex was rated as producing the largest amount of happiness. Commuting was rated the least pleasurable activity.

"People who have more and better quality relationships tend to be happier," said Sharp.

Economists David Blanchflower of Dartmouth College and Andrew Oswald of Warwick University studied 16,000 Americans and calculated that going from having sex monthly to weekly generated about the same amount of happiness as a $50,000 pay raise.

Blanchflower, however, admitted he wasn't sure if happiness led to more sex or more sex led to happiness.

Relative envy

Many decades ago, editor Henry Louis Mencken—the so-called "sage of Baltimore"—defined wealth as earning $100 more than the husband of your wife's sister.

Behavioral economists now say part of the reason we are richer but not happier is because we compare ourselves to people who are better off materially.

"The argument is that if you want to be happy, there's a very simple thing you can do: Compare yourself to people who are less well off than you—poorer, smaller house, car," said Sharp.

"What a lot of people do is quite the opposite, and that's one of the causes of frustration and stress-anxiety," he said.

Robert Frank, a professor of Cornell University, found that a majority of Americans—asked whether they would rather earn $110,000 while everyone else earned $90,000 or earn $200,000 while everyone else earned $83,000—chose option B.

"The level of house that people feel they need depends on the kind of house that others around them have," said Frank in his paper, "Spend more, save less: Why living in a rich society makes us feel poorer."

Health is wealth

The Happiness Institute aims to show you how to overcome these unhappiness detours by focusing on "more than just your bank balance."

"If I compare myself to Bill Gates, then I'm always going to be well down," Sharp said.

According to him, a better benchmark might be Barry Paine, Australia's oldest person who has had a kidney transplant and heart surgery in recent years.

"In a health scale, I'd like to think I'm leagues ahead of him. Would you really want to have $4 billion if it meant your kidneys are shot?" Sharp said. Reuters

DI GALA counts the sins of Indonesian politics for clients. —

Pinoy artist . . .

From page B1

Mosaique terrace, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and fellow Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"For the Philippines, my family [is] politically active," he said. "I have the capability and knowledge of what politicians should be."

A native of Candelaria, Quezon, De Gala married an Indonesian and reserved to Islam, and has lived in Jakarta for 13 years. He now speaks fluent Bahasa.

"Although I miss Filipino, I feel I can also be Indonesian," said the artist who wears pins of the two countries' flags side-by-side on his shirt. "I am very concerned about the social and political conditions in Indonesia."

With the new polls, De Gala hoped to meet the political leaders and be given time to share with them his vision for his adopted country.

Leadership crisis

Indonesia was in the midst of a leadership crisis, he said, and its public officials needed to "win back the heart of the people." Not with money, he elucidated. "[They should be] mingling with the people, eating, drinking and smoking with them, giving them attention and listening to their problems."

This was the only way Indonesians could rekindle love for country and for their leaders, the artist said.

Millions of Indonesians turned away from the party of Megawati in April's general elections, with the poor expressing disappointment that she had done little to improve their lot. Megawati later sought to keep her seat over votes.

None of the presidential candidates has yet visited De Gala's exhibit. But one of them, former Muslim leader Amien Rais, scored a prize, big for the campaign saying. De Gala was able to transmit people's minds and hearts.

"My personality, my soul, is in the painting," the artist said.

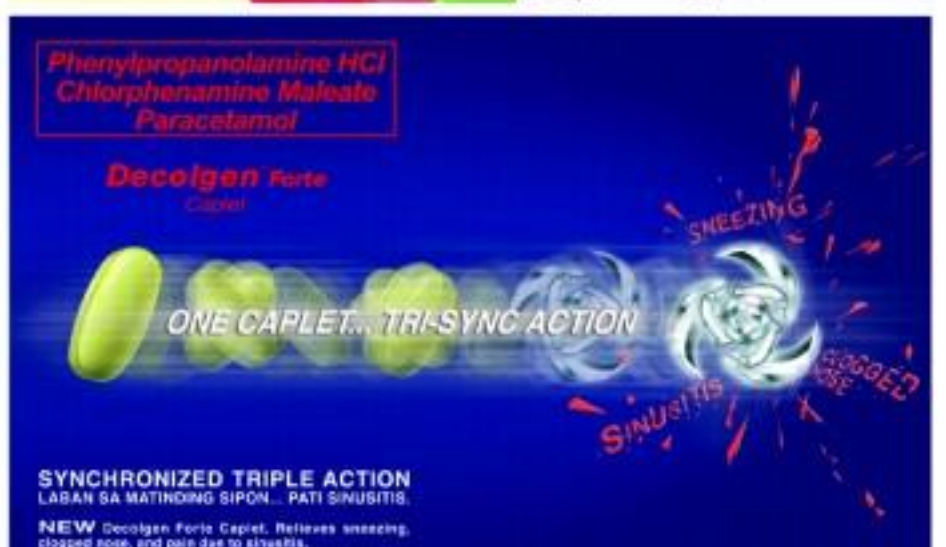
Undying force

In those Megawati smiling in a three-quarter length portrait. She is wearing a purple batik dress and is standing against a dark or purple background.

Sarah Sumihang Tadhiyono, a former general, is portrayed in gray tones wearing an open-necked shirt.

"I am not partisan," De Gala said. "I believe that as an artist, I should be a unifying force."

Which is also the best position for multi-racial under the circumstances because, as a foreign citizen, he is not allowed to vote. AFP



Stray dogs are out, roses in for GMA

From page A1

screening, said police were providing "blanket security" not just on the Cebu City Capitol grounds, where Ms Macapagal would take her oath, but to the entire city as well as 716,000 people.

These included security checks in malls and random checkpoints in other parts of the city. Police were also monitoring areas near the Capitol.

The task force is composed of the police, Army, Police Center for Anti-Terrorism, Air Force and Navy.

Spy in every corner

A police officer said the troops on shore would also be on intelligence agent in every corner of Metro Cebu.

Some organizations had also been tapped to help the police in providing intelligence information.

Even stray dogs were taken off the streets. City officials feared it improper to have the canines around while Ms Macapagal was taking her oath of office.

Some 3,000 drawn golden arrangement and crowns roll were grown in Busay, Cebu, will adorn the hydraulic circular stage where Ms Macapagal will take her oath at high noon.

Nilo Agustin, executive assistant of Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, said the President herself chose the colors of the flag as symbolic representations and unity.

Flowers for the victor

The flowers alone cost P500,000, but Agustin said this was less expensive than it looked. Flowers had been brought from Manila.

Both Aguas of Nivea Florist, hired by the tourism department to decorate the stage, said the roses would be placed around the stage and in the wrought-iron of the white canopy.

She said the roses would be set against garlands of maidenhair and hanging leaves placed on the blue backdrop of the stage in front of the Capitol.

Thousands more flowers will adorn the hall inside the Capitol, but the cost was shouldered by the Cebu government.

Agustin said the canopy was put up only the other day to ensure that the temporal would not be damaged in case of bad weather.

The canopy and the hydraulic stage was built by the Manila-based Imperial in part of the P5-million budget for the events in Cebu City and at Rizal Park.

Agustin said the organizers were excited in keeping with the President's "nourishing nature" that the occasion be "simple, serious but elegant."

The canopy, however, obscured the view of the 60-year-old Capitol's facade, which resembles the US Capitol in Washington DC.

The now obscured Capitol facade would have been illuminated beckoning for the President on her oath-taking. On the facade is written, "The authority of the government emanates from the people."

Under the arrangements, some 115 foreign dignitaries, aside from government officials and other VIPs, will be seated at the back of the stage as Ms Macapagal and Vice President-elect Noli de Castro take their respective oaths before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

De Castro would be the first to arrive at the Capitol, followed by Ms Macapagal, who would be given a 21-gun salute upon her arrival and immediately after the oaths are made.

Two companies of composite honor guards from Manila will render the military honors.

After Ms Macapagal takes her oath, a hydraulic operated table and desk would rise in front of her so that she could sign her oath right there.

De Castro will take his oath first.

After the signing, the program host will tell the guests and spectators: "Please rise to honor the 14th President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Dry run

Evangeline "Lolit" Arroyo, the President's only daughter, was her mom in to the several rounds of dry runs conducted yesterday by Ambassador Maricianes Peyson Jr., presidential adviser on state and foreign visits.

The presidential daughter recalled that the first time her mother took her oath as president, in January 2001, there was no dry run.

Ms Macapagal has two "very-local" Filipiniana gowns to choose from when she delivers her inaugural address at Rizal Park this morning and for the oath-taking and inaugural in Cebu in the afternoon.

One is an aqua silk gazar and the other a green chiffon gown she reportedly used in previous state visits and were recycled with parts taken from gowns of her mentors.

Amelia Zapanta-Andrada, the President's fashion consultant responsible for the mom's improved presidential wardrobe, said Designer Inno Soto reportedly worked on the gowns for more than a week. (Photos, story on Page A1.)

Lolit will also wear a recycled gown of her grandmother's edited by designer JC Buenaflor.

Ms Macapagal will change into her inaugural gown at the VIP lounge at the Mactan International Airport upon her arrival from Manila via a chartered Philippine Airlines airbus.

"The seniors are screened, the program has been set and finalized, special arrangements have been made and the people are anticipating the inception of a new regime," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "This is a proud moment in Philippine democratic history as it is also a moment of rock-taking."

Challenge, opportunity

He said Ms Macapagal, in her inaugural address at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park at 9 a.m. today would dwell on the "themes of governance that will pervade the next six years as well as the values and principles by which we as a nation must live by to achieve our goals."

"It is a moment of challenge and opportunity, of sacrifice but of great hope. We hope that the few tomorrow allies and foes will finally be cleared, and the nation will soon move forward as one," Bunye said.

Ginggi Hernando, a member of the inaugural team, said the special US delegation sent by President George W. Bush to attend Ms Macapagal's inaugural would be led by the US Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi and Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of the US Command in the Pacific.

Hernando also said former Senator Rene Saguisag, one of the world's richest rulers, would come to add glitter to Ms Macapagal's inaugural in Cebu City. Pope John Paul II had also sent his special envoy.

About 30 foreign dignitaries arrived yesterday and were billeted at the Shangri-La Resort Hotel on Mactan Island, Cebu.

The others were booked at the Cebu Marriott Hotel in the Cebu Business Park in Cebu City.

Fully booked

All hotels in Cebu City are fully booked for the inauguration. Some local officials from other regions reportedly complained that they had no place to stay.

The Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City had been blocked off because the President's party will be billeted there.

A red alert had been declared since June 25, not just in Cebu City but the entire Central Visayas to prevent lawless elements from taking advantage of the inauguration.

"What we are concerned about is the possibility that the New People's Army might take advantage of the occasion and might choose to embarrass the government during the inauguration," Mangudadatu said.

Protesters will be there, too

But the tight security measures failed to deter the members of the Kaalagnan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino-Cebu and some militant groups from mobilizing for separate rallies today.

At least 1,000 members of the KNP Cebu, Sandugo and the Partido ng Manggagawa plan to converge at about 10 a.m. on Colon Street, about 2 km away from the Capitol.

Dennis Burgos, PM spokesperson, said his group would try to march toward the Capitol and have the President's effigy burn.

With reports from Aurea R. Calica and Jhannes Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

THE INSCRIPTION on the Cebu Capitol where President Macapagal will take her oath of office as the elected president of the Philippines says it all.

THE FIRST time. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath of office on Jan. 20, 2001 to replace ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Police crush FPJ rally; say they had no choice

A PHALLANX of police professionals drives away supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. who marched at the site Makarao Bonanza in Quezon City

Palace: Poe, supporters can hold proclamation rally but...

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FERNANDO Poe Jr. and his supporters can hold a proclamation rally today as long as they hold it peacefully and they ensure a presence in front City Hall, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We believe that for as long as the expression is peaceful, within the law and the proper permits are secured, anybody can exercise their freedom of speech and assembly," Presidential Management Assistant spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

When pressed whether Malacañang would consider illegal Poe's self-proclamation as the winner of the May 10 polls, Bunye said: "It depends on what eventual line it sends."

He also said Malacañang would deal with the issue at the proper time.

Although Congress had proclaimed Mr Macapagal the winner of the May 10 presidential election, Poe and his supporters insist the results were manipulated.

Bunye said that despite being rebuffed several times, Mr Macapagal would continue to extend the hand of reconciliation to Poe.

"The President will sent personally by a positive response from the other side. We hope that, eventually, the line that divides allies and foes will disappear," he said.

Bunye also said the President believes that Poe "represents the love qualities of the Filipino" and that "his future actions will reflect on thinking."

Who's going to unite, lead the opposition?

Pinanggal A2

first still continue to be multinational senators to be seen," said Escudero, the low-profile head of the fight's last Nationalist People's Coalition, the second largest bloc in the House after the administration Lakas-CMD in the House of Representatives.

"It takes to a local point would nominate a leader. But for now, there is enough votes for the opposition," he added.

Tatad and Senators Rodolfo Lacson and Edgardo Angara would "try" although it was "too early to tell."

Emerging across the opposition lineup is Senate President Franklin Drilon (Koalisyon ng Naglalakbayang Pilipino (coalition former) Benigno Noy Jr. will continue what he started, and that's a challenge for him. She defended running mate, Loren Legarda, is still young, and it's also a challenge for her.

"[But] there is still three. And so is [Eddie] Villanueva. Even Erap [deposed President Joseph Estrada]," remains a force by himself.

"I also don't think [outgoing] Vice President [Teofisto] Guingona is finished yet."

Angara, who spearheaded the organization of the KBP for the May elections, said the "parties and movement" opposition will be a "team-and-one" mode.

"We want to see how the [Ms Macapagal] is going to operate this government," he said.

Sen Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who won reelection under the AKBP ran a "vibrant" opposition in Congress after the latter elections.

"I just know we will not be talking and fighting our enemies but doing our share of the work [for] the people," he said in a separate interview.

Pimentel said he intended to continue "sticking out for the people," as well as "espousing issues that [to be true], not for the people."

Constitution amendments

Among the issues that he said he would fight for in Congress over amendments to the Constitution, including the adoption of a federal form of government.

He said that with new faces in the senate, he hoped to see a "reasonable" opposition that would "stand up for the people regardless of our personal commitments and beliefs."

'Real' leader

Meliott Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said the "real opposition leader" would be Garcia.

That leader, who led the fraction of the Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino that broke from Arroyo and supported Lacson, conceded, "It will depend on whether FPJ will be able to unite (the) (the opposition will be divided again. For sure the Lacson camp will not accept the leadership of Poe."

Former "Tito" Tatad, a defeated KBP senatorial candidate, said there was "no such animal" in the question of whether the opposition could put up a united challenge to Ms Macapagal's administration.

"I foresee a coalition of opposition national leaders, for main objective will be to continue to oppose the flawed results of the election," Tatad said, adding:

"Whether one prominent personality will emerge cannot be foretold. We should allow events in the future to decide."

"FPJ will continue to be a symbol of the opposition. But I don't think Lacson is repudiated as one.

"They will continue to exercise a big role, the [Nene] Pimentez-ng [Morning Filipinos] will be one of the biggest groups.

"And then will have to decide himself, given his physical condition, what role he will play. Eddie Villanueva will continue to be a force."

In another interview, Tatad said Pimentel had been standing in as the leader of the opposition, especially during the vacuum of the votes for president and vice president.

Tatad noted that Pimentel had reportedly appealed for the joint canvassing committee to examine the election returns, and even resorted to a filibuster to make his point.

"He was blamed for that, and he deserves to be rewarded ... He (the other should be recognized. He has relinquished," Tatad said.

2 options

Asked what his ahead for the opposition, Angara said it had three options.

The first, he said, was to pursue its "traditional role"—to "criticize, criticize and expose irregularities in the government"—a role that, he doubted, the opposition intended to "pursue."

He said the second option was to listen to what the administration had to offer to its proposed call for unity.

But he stressed that the opposition wanted to see "something concrete" and would not accept an "outright transfer of cooperation that is based on the division of seats."

"They should not offer us jobs here and jobs there," he said.

Angara said the third option was to "keep quiet and let the administration-opposition take over."

But he said the opposition could adopt "the best two options because these would "work together."

Fragmented

Camarines Sur Rep. Reynaldo Andaya Jr. said the Ms Macapagallies would dominate not only the Senate and the House but also the local government units.

"The opposition will continue to be fragmented, but things could change suddenly," he said.

Andaya, a member of the Liberal Party, said he expected most of the opposition members in Congress to cooperate initially in the administration's legislative agenda.

But he said the "problems" with how the administration would will parties "will's one color or one whole."

At the House, Lakas is sure to continue its coalition with the KBP, and the Liberal Party, with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. as head of a fourth term as in its helm.

The MIC includes Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, who in his role as spokesperson of the KBP campaign as an effective and valiant defender of Ms Macapagal.

Escudero, who was reelected to a third term, could run for reelected yesterday he continued. But in an interview on June 15, when the convene was ongoing, he said he was KBP, but added Cebu will. Lakas on whether their alliance would continue.

While the NPC was allied with Lakas in the 12th Congress, NPC members were divided in the last elections, with some supporting Ms Macapagal and the other Poe.

Escudero, the deputy majority leader in the 12th Congress, said the NPC would take a party position on the status of its alliance with Lakas.

If the alliance continues, Escudero will in effect be counted as part of the majority in the 13th Congress.

Quiet

When the 13th Congress opens on July 26, recently, there will be eight senators in the opposition—Angara, Pimentel, Jinggoy Estrada, Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson, Juggy Estrada, Juanby Madrigal, Aquino Pimentez Escudero and Alfredo Lim.

But Tatad noted that Estrada and Lim had lately been "quiet."

Tatad also said Pimentel was the most senior among the crop of newly-elected opposition senators.

DPWH usec fails lifestyle check, ordered dismissed

Pinanggal A1

Manalo a 20-page report of the Ombudsman investigating panel recommending Mojdeo's dismissal for grave misconduct and dishonesty. The undersecretary was earlier found to have failed the government's lifestyle check.

The report of the panel led by Special Prosecutor Officer III Orlando Jara said Reyes had failed to declare assets amounting to P4,048,865,220 in his 2001 and 2002 statements of assets and liabilities filed.

But Reyes, a government employee for 37 years, said the lifestyle check was being "selectively applied."

"There are others in the Cabinet who are really corrupt," but the government is not charges filed against them are being ignored by the Lifestyle Check Coalition, he said in a phone interview.

According to Reyes, this is particularly true in the Department of Public Works and Highways where, he said, almost all of the top officials were multimillionaires and were living beyond their means.

"But they are considered untouchables," he said.

The dismissed order stemmed from a graft case filed by Eduardo Mallillin, then director of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. It was Mallillin who initiated the investigation of Reyes and members of his family.

Records also showed, apart from the dismissal of Reyes, the cancellation of his eligibility from career, forfeiture of retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from employment in the government service.

But Reyes said he would file a motion for reconsideration and was considering taking the matter to a higher court.

Unexplained wealth

The Ombudsman said that while Reyes had declared P4,584,555 and P5,956,219.25 in his 2001 and 2002 SALN, respectively, his bigger asset of P35 million, briefly in his property in Bulacan, was actually listed in the name of his children—Ryzel, Mary Grace and Sid Carlo Jr.

Reyes's three children were actually then unemployed students, since all of them have no substantial income to show that they had the capacity to have lawfully acquired" mentioned, Jara pointed out in his report.

Among the assets are a commercial building and a lot in the name of Mary Grace worth about P800,000, a 650-square-meter lot in the name of Ryzel worth P1.6 million, and a lot in the name of Sid valued at valued at P1,87,000.

The family was also found to have made numerous trips abroad, with Reyes and his wife alone hopping 17 trips during in 1998. The trips are said to have cost the family about P1,700,000.

Reyes's annual income is about P396,500.

Thriving businesses

But in an earlier interview, Reyes said his wife, Magnolia, had been successful in her puppery and pastry businesses since 1990.

He also said his family's rearing and pastabay businesses had been flourishing since 1998.

Reyes said it was Magnolia and not himself, who had acquired the real properties in Bulacan by purchase, bank loan, inheritance and investments of mortgages in their lending business.

He said he had dutifully disclosed the assets in the year they were acquired, as well as their cost of acquisition. But he admitted not filing their assessed and fair market values because he did not know their actual worth at the acquisition.

Reyes also said studies that his children had legitimate sources of income, including a grocery store, a video rental center, a computer shop, a gasoline business and a motor shop.

He said his children had also received gifts from relatives, laundry, tuition stations and credit corporation businesses.

But graft investigators pointed out that the Reyes children did not submit any income tax returns, and there was "no credible explanation for their sizable start-up capital for their alleged businesses."

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BUSINESS

John Paul C. Morada
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Survey says RP consumers more optimistic

By Michelle V. Reyes

OPTIMISTIC about the capability of the next administration to improve the economy, consumer confidence in the country has risen, with more Filipinos now believing that their lives will be better in the months ahead.

This was the result of the latest online consumer sentiment survey conducted by market research firm AC Nielsen, in the survey, 49 percent of the 1,226 respondents said they believed the economy would improve in the next 12 months. This was an improvement from the 36 percent recorded in the survey conducted in October last year.

According to AC Nielsen managing director Ruben Canlas, the higher level of consumer confidence could be attributed to the recent elections. Capitalmarkets observed that the local stock exchange (PSE) and other financial markets usually react positively to the election of a new administration.

"Most Filipinos believe that issues like unemployment, security threats and health will be better addressed in the new administration," Canlas has said during yesterday's press briefing on the latest survey results.

Aside from having a better outlook for the coming months, more respondents also believed that the economy had improved in the past six months than the time the survey was conducted. Seventeen percent of the respondents said they felt the economy was better compared with the 13 percent recorded during the October survey.

The highest consumer confidence in the Philippines during the time of the survey was recorded with the economic growth posted during the first quarter of the year. The country's gross domestic product growth rose to 6.4 percent in the first quarter, the fastest in nine years, said AC Nielsen.

The improved consumer confidence in the Philippines was also consistent with the latest sentiment in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Nearly seven percent of respondents across all Asia-Pacific countries, which are included in the survey said they believed the economy was better in the six months ago. The figure was higher than the 43 percent recorded last year and the 26 percent who believed the economy deteriorated.

Other countries where the same survey was conducted included India, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

But while consumer confidence in the Philippines improved, it was still weak compared with the positive consumer sentiments in its neighboring countries. While the Philippines had 49 percent of those optimistic believing that the economy would improve in the coming months, India had 85 percent, China, 79 percent, Malaysia, 73 percent, and Singapore, 72 percent.

Consumer confidence in Japan, Australia and New Zealand was, however, much weaker at 31 percent, 43 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

Despite their confidence that the economy would improve, however, Filipino respondents still considered job security, economic growth and cost of utilities as their major concerns in the months ahead.

The 500 respondents from the Philippines consisted of middle to upper income earners.

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱56.25 =
As of 5 p.m., June 29, 2004

US$1.00 =
As of 5 p.m., June 29, 2004

SOLD OFF BY PSE !!!
as recent highest June 8: 109

June 29, 2004 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australia	Dollar	1.00000	0.7000	56.1800
Japan	Yen	1.00000	0.0090	0.5055
United Kingdom	Pound	1.00000	0.5000	102.5000
Hong Kong	Dollar	1.00000	0.1280	7.2000
Switzerland	Franc	1.00000	0.8000	45.0000
Canada	Dollar	1.00000	0.7000	39.3700
Singapore	Dollar	1.00000	0.5800	32.6000
Malaysia	Ringgit	1.00000	0.2600	14.6200
Bahrain	Dinar	1.00000	2.6500	149.0625
Kuwait	Dinar	1.00000	3.2500	182.8125
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	1.00000	0.2600	14.6200
Bahrain	Dirham	1.00000	0.2700	15.1875
Thailand	Baht	1.00000	0.0250	1.4063
Qatar	Riyal	1.00000	0.2700	15.1875
Italy	Lira	1.00000	0.0005	0.0281
Belgium	Franc	1.00000	0.0250	1.4063
Germany	Mark	1.00000	0.5000	28.1250
France	Franc	1.00000	0.1500	8.4375
Netherlands	Guilder	1.00000	0.4500	25.3125
Austria	Schilling	1.00000	0.0700	3.9375
Spain	Peseta	1.00000	0.0060	0.3375
Denmark	Krone	1.00000	0.1300	7.3125
Sweden	Krona	1.00000	0.1100	6.1875
Finland	Markka	1.00000	0.1700	9.5625
Greece	Drachma	1.00000	0.0030	0.1688
Portugal	Escudo	1.00000	0.0050	0.2813
Ireland	Pound	1.00000	0.5000	28.1250
Norway	Krone	1.00000	0.1200	6.7500
Venezuela	Bolivar	1.00000	1.00000	0.0000

Stock Market

Stocks at 3-month high

(Business section report on Page B2)

Plan to shift to gross income taxation bucked

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to tax corporations based on gross income has drawn flak from tax experts, warning that the proposed shift was not equitable nor efficient.

Former Finance Undersecretary Manolo Gaerlan, an architect of the comprehensive tax reform program during the Ramos administration, said the proposed gross income tax on corporations could result in "cascading" or "multiple taxation."

"Raw materials that were taxed in the hands of the supplier will be taxed again when they are manufactured, and will be taxed once more when they are sold. The tax will double, triple, quadruple, and much, much more, if there are several stages in the processing and distribution of a good. And multiple taxes mean prices going up, up and away," Gaerlan warned in a position paper sent to the Inquirer.

Paul Cooper, an economist-tax specialist advisor to Senator Gamaliel Cordoba, also argued that the GIT would not resolve the issue of underdeclaration.

Tiberio expressed still still be declarable as taxpayers and BIR economists will still be able to declare over-deductible outside expenses classified as [illegible]

UN agency, EU help Palawan forest project

By Rowena Dominguez

THE UNITED Nations Development Program and the European Commission said they signed two separate agreements last week in the grant of funds for the training of indigenous people in Palawan on the management schemes and their ancestral domains.

Under the memoranda of agreement, the two agencies gave about P2.07 million to the Commission on Ethnic Minorities (CEMIN) and P2.04 million to the Bukidnon-based Tagdumahang Confederation of Manobos (Tacom) through the Social [illegible] Office (SOPPE).

Implemented in seven municipalities in Palawan province, the SOPPE project aims to promote sustainable forest management through partnership with local communities.

Leaders and chief [illegible] the project, UNDP sought to empower indigenous people by providing them with strategies to eliminate management while enhancing their awareness of their rights in the protection of their ancestral domains.

The DENR project is to

Aboitiz firm set to raise capital

By Clarissa S. Reine

ABOITIZ Transport System Corp. has said it would increase its authorized capital to P3.02 billion from P1.77 billion to fund the up-coming merger of its two land subsidiaries Aboitiz Express Inc.

The capital increase could pave the way for the eventual consolidation of the Aboitiz group's transport business.

The company would also expand the routes and frequency of its shipping business by third quarter this year. The roll-on, roll-off super ferry 17 and 18, would operate more routes, as often like Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod and General Santos.

The capital hike, which shareholders approved last Monday, would effectively increase the number of common shares to 2.37 billion from 1.62 billion, while reducing the number of authorized redeemable preferred shares to 75.06 million from 130.06 million.

Foreign shipping Aboitiz Transport's premium unchanged operating income and the group would eventually consolidate the transport business under the listed holding firm ACV Aboitiz Transport (formerly PCGAC) is currently owned jointly by ACV and Aboitiz Co.

"We have been working to integrate the transport interests, as the one road for operational and funding efficiencies," said Aboitiz.

The reorganization plan, which may take a year or two, would involve transferring all sea, land and air transport interests within Aboitiz Transport. Once the consolidation is complete, Aboitiz Transport will not only have Cebu Pacific Cargo and NCAA Cargo Connection Inc., it will also own Aboitiz One.

Aboitiz One is a freight and logistics company owned by Aboitiz & Co. The firm owns 20 percent of Aboitiz shipholder Inchcape Shipping Services Holdings Ltd.

Once the reorganization is complete, the shipping business would account for 60 percent of the transport interests, according to Jon Ramon Aboitiz, chair of Aboitiz Transport.

SEC hopes to establish cross-border trading

By Elizabeth L. Sánchez

ALTHOUGH Securities and Exchange Commission officials are keen on the idea of allowing cross-border trading in the local bourse, they admit that there is still a lot of work to be done before this can go ahead with the listing and trading of companies registered in other countries.

SEC chair Lilia Bautista said registration requirements related to cross-border trading still has to be established in the country.

The requirements will pave the way for companies listed in other exchanges to be listed automatically in the local stock market.

The current fee requirements for companies to be registered first with the SEC before they are traded or listed on the stock exchange.

Bautista in June 10 attended an Asian capital markets forum meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

She said most Asian members are still consulting each other on the standards that will make an integrated capital market possible.

According to a working paper discussed during the forum, the integration of capital markets will only make them more self-reliant. The development of a regional capital market in Asia will improve the region's competitiveness by drawing an overwhelming inflow to bank loans.

New ALI officials named

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) has named a new president and treasurer effective today.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), ALI's board of directors approved the appointments of Jaime Ongpin as president of ALI and as member of the company's nomination and executive committees.

Ongpin will replace Francisco Licuanan III who surrender interest from the company after 15 years of service.

ALI also named chief finance officer Aloysius Yuseco as treasurer effective today, replacing Mercedita Nolledo who resigned to step down as treasurer of the company to assume vice president and treasurer.

Licuanan and Nolledo will remain members of ALI's board.

The Ramon Ang-led Universal Robina Corporation Group has appointed Lance Gokongwei as chairman of the company's board of directors and Cirilo Noel as president and chief executive officer (CEO), respectively. The two were elected for their offices to ensure the continuity of the management needs of the growing company.

ALI also over has reelected P6.9 billion for private and regular corporate notes. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Plan to shift ...

deductible, Cooper said.

"In end, a high-tech tax, low-turnover business will pay a far higher portion of their net income than a low mark-up, high-turnover business, which is inequitable," he said.

Then, Cooper said the CIT must place the integrity of the Philippine tax system at the forefront. Investors typically require the Philippines to allow a deduction for all expenses when determining the taxable income for the benefit of a foreign company.

Valid is this the likelihood that a 12-percent tax on gross income is likely to result in a higher effective income corporation than a 32-percent tax on net income, and the foundations for a CIT system more to look very suspect," he said.

The proposed CIT, Cooper agreed, was not as simple as it seemed as it could reinvent in different tax bases such as gross sales or receipts, gross income or modified gross income.

"A tax on gross sales or gross income is not an income tax. It is more of a sales tax of the turnover

UN agency, EU help ...

CIDC will be given to four months. It provides for the protection of tropical forests located in Barangay Tawasan, Banuyan, Sitio Tabod, Barangay Panitian, Sitio Mahitsuan, Barangay Dolores, Barangay Sitio Carol, Barangay Mabitac, all in Palawan.

Similarly, the SIGA with ILTTRP sought to increase forest protection through training and to strengthen institutional and coordination among the LGUs in Barangay Pasool, Tenley Palawan.

Lindley said the three strategies for the project included institutional protection, increase in the level of livelihood and strengthening of the community through mutual

Dis-Grassi-a

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ADGV Campaigners Philippines may not easily succumb to bold moves and other temptation of lawyers, the former Lopez-owned Indian restaurant in Ortigas that has transformed to the Lopezes' Rockwell complex.

The June 22 party was part of the latter's blitz launch for the Philippines condo living built right in front of Rockwell and being additionally marketed as part of the Rockwell locale lifestyle.

For a still unexplained reason, Ayuzo decided to cancel the reservations for 200 persons, apparently at the proverbial last minute, according to S. Cecile Ruiz. The Lopezes did not want the proposed middle-class Philippine condo to be associated as part of its upscale development and had prevailed upon the Gazi's owners to please not host the interloping competitor.

Previous to the cancellation, Rockwell Land president Nestor "Tang" Padilla had been heard grumbling about the Conservatives having pruned a number of Rockwell officers, who of course brought along with them lucrative details of Rockwell's marketing plan.

Ayuzo said recall to many of its Rockwell architect firms and Gazi agreed to work on the Conservatives Philippine project, thus giving the impression that the air-on-the-street condo in Rockwell with a discount air spot.

The Philippine condo will rise within the Metropolitan Asbestos Dike's riverside grounds, with the latter pushed higher and eyes to block a portion of the previously undiscovered and sweeping Pasig River view from the Rockwell condos.

Oh, yes, the Philippine party did manage to get underway, but had to be held instead at the Conservatives' One McKinley Place in The Fort.

Disorder in the court

THE ACRIMONIOUS atmosphere surrounding the Marcel smuggled porcelain odyssey out has apparently infected even the judge hearing the case.

Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Rebecca Montano de Mesa-Bautista's hearing called defense lawyer Bob Maquia "stupid," and he had to correct him on top of the judicial mouth for his suspect flow.

Maquia, counsel for Hanjoon Plaza heir Robert "Bobby" Martel, had been questioning Marcel's recipient under that festival Makati's early Melissa Morgado, claiming if had been gotten illegitimately.

The well-dog-born, since there is a pending appeal before the Manila Court of Appeals denying not only the judge's ruling, but also the court's invisibility of certain provisions of Republic Act No. 9262, The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act.

Any) speaking of the Manila, the firsthand like for only also

Gov't to issue $250M in bonds for Napocor

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE GOVERNMENT launched $250 million worth of global bonds Monday night to help the state-owned and debt-ridden National Power Corp. meet its financing requirement for the year.

According to National Treasurer Rino Tigueros, the bonds would mature in 2017. This means the government is adding $250 million more to the $750-million borrowing that it already undertook earlier through the issuance of bonds that will mature in 2017.

The bond float is being handled by JP Morgan, Tigueros said.

Tigueros said the government decided to do the borrowing for Napocor considered a high risk by investors, to get lower interest rates.

"It was better for the government to borrow for Napocor because we would be paying a higher premium. Anyway, the government still directs the rate backward by or if Napocor borrows on its own and is a high risk," Tigueros told reporters yesterday. Napocor's borrowings are always guaranteed by the national government.

Should Napocor borrow on its own, Tigueros explained, the cost would be at least 100 basic points (one percentage point) higher than the rate if the government would do the borrowing.

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Clark airport taps Japanese firm for $300-M upgrade

By Christa S. Bueno

CLARK International Airport Corp. has tapped Japanese firm Pacific Consultants Inc. to help it draft a master plan for the P300-million upgrading and expansion of the old-new international airport to Manila.

The acceleration of the development plan for Clark airport, according to its president Adolfo Tan, followed the inclusion of the former US air base as well as the Subic Bay port in the 10-point economic agenda of President Macapagal under her new 6-year term.

Top-end the master plan would include upgrading the existing passenger terminal in anticipation of increased passenger volumes.

The plan would also ensure that the development of Clark airport would be integrated with other economic infrastructure projects like the North Luzon Railway, the Clark-Subic highway, the Clark-Dalac expressway, among others, he added.

South Korea's Asiana Airlines flies to Clark five times daily to bring nearly tourists. Eventually, he said, Filipino workers from Northern and Central Luzon choosing to fly with carriers using the Clark Airport instead of Manila.

The Clark Airport president said that the company would need P70 million for the first phase of the upgrading of the terminal, and another P90 million for phase 2.

Having up a logistics and maintenance complex would cost at least $100 million, according to Tan. But he professed that such a facility be built by private companies like aircraft makers Boeing Co. or Airbus or both.

Clark airport is the alternative to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport because it is closest to Manila. The underwater breakwalling of the Subic Terminal 2 boosted the chances of Clark Airport being developed as the next gateway for tourism and trade.

The former US military air base sits on 2,2,750-hectare complex with two parallel, 3.3-kilometer runways that can accommodate large aircraft. It also has modern passenger terminal building that can serve 600 passengers an hour or 1.5 million passengers a year.

Last year, Mitsubishing issued JG 2021 to establish Clark Airport as a distinct entity from Clark Development Corp. Clark Airport was tasked to develop, manage and operate the Diosdado Macapagal Intl to onboard the port.

RCBC sees ₱1-B profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. of the Yuchengco group expects to post a lower net income this year of P1.2 billion.

RCBC vice chair and CEO Cesar Virata said the bank's income was expected to decline from P1.43 billion last year due to the minimal growth in lending in the first six months.

Banks get the bulk of their revenue from the interest charged on loans.

Virata told reporters Monday night after the company stockholders' meeting that there was no significant pick-up in lending activity in the first semester partly due to uncertainties arising from the presidential elections. However, he said lending should increase in in the second half, particularly to the food industry and the real estate sector.

"We'll also try to improve our credit card business ... the retail area has been the focus of many banks because of the margins," he said.

RP to sell mangoes to China

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES will start exporting its carabao mangoes to China before the end of the year.

Mango Product Exporters Confederation Inc. president Roberto C. Amores said the industry was working closely with the Agriculture Department, which was finalizing the export procedures with the Shanghai Ministry of Agriculture.

Amores said mangoes to be exported to Shanghai and Xiamen must undergo vapor heat treatment to meet safety regulations.

The Philippines is the eighth largest fresh mango exporter in the world market.

It has been delivering fresh mangoes to Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Belgium.

The country's fresh mango exporters include Amores' Hi-Las Marketing Corp., Marsman Drysdale, Dole Asia Ltd. and Diamond Star Agro Products Inc.

The Philippines plans to challenge Mexico for the top spot in the mango export market.

Mexico currently dominates the $200-million fresh mango market of the United States.

The country's fresh mango exports grew by 20 percent last year, translating to roughly $90 million in export earnings, according to the Philippine Mango Exporters Foundation.

25 YEARS ... and counting ... to be young is to be free
LIFESTYLE
Editor Cheche Bansal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondence Pam Pastor

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

SPIDER SUPERIOR

With its excellent effects and solid performances, 'Spider-Man 2' is an action-packed yet intelligent look at wh it really means to be superhero. And it's e more amazing than the first movie!

By Rael S. De Vera

WHAT makes Spider-Man so compelling isn't that he has super powers. It's that even with them, his life as Peter Parker still sucks. This circumstance is at the heart of what makes "Spider-Man 2," the sequel to 2002 box-office juggernaut "Spider-Man," an emphatic, superlative motion picture. But that's just the tip of the web.

Two years after the transformative events of the first movie, Peter (Tobey Maguire) is struggling as he tries to juggle being everybody's friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, college, a part-time job and, well, just basically being the unspectacular Peter Parker. In the process, object of affection Mary Jane Watson (an increasingly lovely Kirsten Dunst), feeling neglected, gets engaged to a dashing man in uniform. Feeling the pressure of his multiple lives, Peter's own powers seem to be abandoning him and, in a bid to live some semblance of a normal life, gives up the life of a super-hero.

But when arch-nemesis surrender Otto Octavius ("Vidal's" Alfred Molina) **[illegible]** in a terrible accident, cybernetic tentacles become grafted onto his body and he goes mad. Obsessed with continuing his ill-fated experiments, Octavius, dubbed Doctor Octopus by the press, becomes a criminal. He eventually strikes a deal with wealthy Harry Osborne (James Franco's Oxbox's will provide Octavius with his needed material if the scientist brings Spiderman, whom Osborn blames for the death of his father to him. Octavius tries to convince the person who takes Spidey's photographs—Peter—by shadowing Mary Jane.

Not just action

But there is much more going on in this movie than just the action. Based on the original material by legendy Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, screenwriter Alvin Sargent (working from a story penned by several others, Pulitzer-winning novelist Michael Chabon) fleshes out the true essence of Spider-Man and of Peter Parker. It's not just about saving the day. It's also about helping his Aunt May (the marvelous Rosemary Harris) fight against foreclosure, it's about coming to terms with the exquisite sacrifices of being a hero, and about learning what is most important to Peter.

Making it all work is returning director Sam Raimi. After cutting his teeth on the first movie, Raimi finally lets loose in "Spider-Man 2," using the pioneering effects technology and his own directorial prowess to horrendously amazing ways. There is a palpable joy and exuberance, a certain brazenness

SPIDER C2

SPIDER SUPERIOR

KIRSTEN Dunst is lovely as Mary Jane Watson

JAMES Franco gives a solid performance as Harry Osborn

FROM "Frida" to "Spider-Man," Alfred Molina as Otto Octavius

From page 21

to the way Spider-Man gracefully and kinetically swoops through New York City's skyline. Not only has the technology from the first movie been refined, it's consistent here: Spidey now really swings—as opposed to lifts, and Raimi's jerked yet giddy direction shows that he's more than just comfortable with the material now. He really gets it.

And it's all down on the screen. Maguire, fresh from a great turn in "Seabiscuit," simply owns the role of Peter Parker. He conveys the character's mix of self and self-loathing with the right amount of exasperation, just as he fills that suit with more than just muscle. Maguire shows us that Spider-Man's powers don't make life easier for Peter, for true he has to do what he has to do anyway.

Despite a compact running time (the movie swings in at just a fraction over two hours), "Spider-Man 2" provides a surprising and welcome amount of time for character development. Aside from Dunst, Harris and Franco give solid performances, just trading their characters.

But the true great addition to this cast is the talented Molina. As the brilliant and yet tortured Doctor Octopus, Molina gives a textured, irresistible portrayal to what easily could have been a one-dimensional character. If Boris was John Dahmer and now have turned Doc Ock's casualties virtually into a character unto themselves. By infusing Octopus, easily one of Spider-Man's most popular enemies, with a compelling humanity, Molina has also injected pathos and depth into "Spider-Man 2."

Excellent

Raimi wraps all of these elements together with excellent action scenes and has now come very close to translating the power of the best color comic book onto the big screen. There are many subtle to classic Spider-Man continuity and rich, inviting snippets of that infectious Spider-Man animated series theme song and the "Spider-Man No More" cover from "Amazing Spider-Man" # 50. But more than that, Raimi brings a genuine sense of wonder to the movie, aided by the sharp eye of cinematographer Bill Pope and the perfect score by composer Danny Elfman.

The truth is, "Spider-Man 2" is similar to that classic 1980 movie, "Superman II," in many ways. While the first movie introduced the characters, it was the second movie that truly defined the characters. "Spider-Man 2" shows us what really makes Spidey such an iconic character, because Peter Parker is a decent kid who just can't catch a break but, burdened with power and responsibility wins his love anyway. Just like we do.

And all of this makes "Spider-Man 2" a superior film to its predecessor, no small feat. It also makes it, together with the dark "X2," war-day films arising from comic books, the best such efforts so far. Enjoy "Spider-Man 2" for what it is, a fun, fulfilling film for first time fan and hardcore alike—especially since the third movie is tentatively scheduled for January 2007.

Sam Raimi and company have breathed life into one amazing movie. By the end of this movie, resolutions will be made that will change Spider-Man forever. A whole new danger emerges from behind the mirror easy as Peter experiences surprises of all kinds; all in all, just another day in the life of Spider-Man.

"Spider-Man 2" is more than just a cool super hero movie—it's a great movie, period. Time is saving over to the theater, right. It's time to celebrate this author's life.

Columbia Pictures' "Spider-Man 2" opens nationwide today.

THE NEXT chapter of the Peter-Mary Jane love story

MAGGIE yourself for excellent action scenes.

Her BF stopped calling when he met a guy who likes her

CHATROOM

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

My boyfriend for almost five years now is in Europe, studying. We started our relationship long-distance. These past few months, I got the feeling of coldness from him. It was odd. The usual twice-a-day phone conversations disappeared. The last time I called him in June, he was angry and jealous. It was because of my excitement upon learning that he met a guy-friend of mine who had a crush on me. That same guy had a crush on his ex-girlfriend.

From then on, I've the one who has to call him. He doesn't even text because of his "busy life." I think he wants to call it quits, but he doesn't have the courage to do so. I feel that he thinks I may not handle the situation well since he's my first boyfriend.

I love him and I don't want to give him up. What should I do?

GURLALOU

What you should do is rethink about not wanting to give him up.

Five years is already a feat for a relationship that is mostly based on phone calls and text messages. Such a relationship is high-maintenance and has a tendency to grow more and more difficult.

In most long-distance relationships, emotional distance is something that almost always accompanies the physical separation due to many factors: lack of trust, threat of a third party, overwork, etc.. In your case, you have chosen to point a finger at your boyfriend and how jealous he was when he learned that this new guy he met had a crush on you. And thanks for admitting that you're to blame for his jealousy.

I say the green monster is doing the "*otso-otso*" within your boyfriend and the insecurity is eating him. And who can blame him? With the thousands of miles separating you, I guess it's easy to be jealous.

The fact that you're hearing voices and you feel that he wants to call it quits is already an indication of how blurry things are turning out. Add how he has chosen to be out of reach, plus the thought that so many unnamable things could be happening to him over there— I hope you get a clear pic of what you should do.

I believe you've been keeping him up-to-date with what's happening in your life, especially your emotions. Go full blast and tell him what you mentioned in your letter. If he doesn't reply to that, then I guess he's giving you another reason to really think about not wanting to give him up.

MARK

I never thought I'd ever give this kind of advice to anyone, but here it is, anyway: Apologize to your boyfriend. Say sorry for the offense you think you made. You're not guilty of anything except of feeling flattered, which is far from being a crime, but tell him that you're sorry for it and how it had hurt his feelings.

Now, before you get up in arms over such advice, think of it as the last resort in preserving your relationship. By the way you said things have been going, it's not going to take a lot to break your relationship up. Not only is your boyfriend neglecting his responsibilities as your partner, he is also making it more difficult for you to do yours. You will want to give up too, out of exhaustion, sooner or later.

So before that happens, prepare yourself to be a little more self-sacrificing and to be, as we usually call it, "*tanga*." Swallow your pride and let him hear what you think he wants to hear. That sounds incredibly stupid and shallow, given that you've been partners for five years now, but indulge him and his insecurities just this one time. It's neither deception nor being patronizing. Well, ok, it's a little patronizing, but it won't hurt to try if it means saving the relationship.

Hopefully, his ego would be satisfied with your apology enough for him to open up and tell you what is really bothering him. When he starts being honest with you again, then the two of you can work on the future of your relationship, on whether it will have a future or not. At least, you'd be rid of one-sided presumptions and guesses.

At the same time, be prepared to let him go. I might have been giving you tall and contradicting orders, but let me repeat: these are your last resort. The first one is your desperate attempt to get your boyfriend to connect with you again and the second is for your own protection, when he actually confirms what you've been dreading all along.

It pays to be wise and lots of times, the wise have to pretend to be not-so-smart. In your case, you might have to do this while still keeping your wits about you and looking out for yourself. Take heart; you can survive this.

SEPTEMBER

E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com. Chatroom is inviting letter senders to indicate if they want their e-mail address printed so wannabe Mark and Sep's out there can get in touch with problematic readers and send in their comments and advice.

Fruitful search for budget-friendly skin care products

Totally Juicy products don't just look good enough to eat but actually work

WHEN I find myself stranded in Streamville, I head for a spa or salon and get every treatment possible to turn my hideous state back to a remotely human appearance.

But when I'm stranded in Streamville with not money to pay for all the professional pampering, I head for the nearest health and beauty store and scour the shelves for the next best thing. Home remedies that can breathe new life into my haggard self without making the life out of my bank account.

That's what I did recently when I found myself in Streamville again. As soon as I got my butt off my chair and bid my computers goodbye, I rushed to the one place that could offer me solace—the nearest beauty store. I immediately felt better at the sight of bottles and tubes of every beauty product known to humans, and headed in that tempting fruity, floral and smoky scents.

I was about to stock up on my usual line-up of products when a flash of bright colors caught my eye. Since I'm extra curious when beauty products are involved (refuge past, for you!—yes, for you!—sake) I momentarily dropped my shopping basket to check them out.

Loren Gabriel

Fruity concoctions

Totally Juicy, every tube said. Interesting. Everything was named after some fruit—and I'm a big sucker for them, being a huge devotee of vitamins and everything healthy. You know what happened next? I threw a bunch of them into my basket, went home and spent three hours in the bathroom trying everything out.

Apple Hot Sugar Body Scrub—This was the winner that day. Harsh air conditioning every day has made my skin dry and dull. I badly needed a good scrub...and this product gave me more than that.

You're supposed to apply it on dry skin, before getting in the shower. As you rub the stuff all over, you realize what the "hot" is about—the substance warms up as you scrub it on. That's supposed to be a good thing because the heat helps the product penetrate deep into your pores to deep-clean while exfoliating.

I highly recommend it after a stressful day.

Ocean Breeze Tingling Sage Scrub—I just love how totally fancy products live up to their names. Aside from reminding me of the beach because of its fresh scent, the product really does tingle! The grains don't scratch your skin, but make sure you test your face before massaging it on. Use a light touch, and don't overdo the scrubbing line you look like you made out with sandpaper.

Grapefruit Peel-Off Mask...I never believed in "magic" grapefruit clues and never required a ruler for the fruit, but since I discovered this face mask, I think I now know God's primary reason for creating it.

Late nights and occasional facial neglect resulted in a complexion badly in need of skin triceratops (if there is such a thing). Creating my fingers, I slathered on some of the grapefruit stuff and waited exactly 15 minutes for results. Voila! My skin looked restored, my complexion brighter, and my spirits higher. I lost the "additional" five years I had just 15 minutes before.

Mango Papaya Belly Bedgo...I forced pure mirth over before I seriously had blackheads just to see if I'd really see "Gasli" making use of them. This new formulation makes the whole process even more fun!

It comes in gel form, almost feeling you are exfoliating it's a peel-off mask. But it actually adheres to your skin like a pore strip and has more "muscle" to pull out nasty blackheads from your pores. It's also packed with vitamins, so your nose doesn't end up parched or sore afterwards.

Lemon 3-in-1 Cleanser—Okay I'm pretty sure it's human, but after some serious consumption I think it could actually be a cross between him and lemon. Whatever it is, it gives a good cleansing before an action-packed day. The puppy scent really wakes you up—a huge plus for people like myself who need an extra "nudge" to get out of bed.

Don't use too much, though. Make sure you lather up before spreading the stuff on your face as too much can dry the skin. And remember to follow up with a moisturizer.

All in all, this new, affordable line (everything costs P150-P250) is a true pleasure to use. The best part is, the products really work wonders for most complexions (not to mention, budget).

Try other items for the face and body and find the ones that will fit well in your personal care regimen: Grapefruit Body Buffer, Apricot Pore Cleansing Scrub, Cooling Face Mask, Apple Tingling Peel-Off Mask and more. You're bound to get goldberry addicted. But remember, Totally Juicy products go on your face, not in it—even if all cases the comparison is quite a bite.

Totally Juicy products are available at FCK Watson's, *major department stores and supermarkets nationwide*

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Music by people 'caught' in spider's web

"SPIDER-MAN 2—Music From and Inspired By" is a collection of music written and performed by musicians influenced by the comic book character.

It includes lead tracks "Hesitated" by Deathhead Confidential (now No. 1 Most Added Record at Modern Rock Radio) and "Embrace," the new track from the Grammy-winning rock band Train. Both singles have companion videoclips.

The album also features new songs from Soulsavah ("Old War"), Jet ("Hold On"), Yellowcard ("Ultra and Carnet"), Maroon 5 ("Pharaoh"), Taking Back Sunday ("This Photograph Is Fixed (I Know You Regret")), Spoon ("Empty Bed ("Who's In")), Alanis ("The Night that the Lights Went Out in NYC"), Sia ("We Are") and Jimmy Gnecco featuring Brian May ("Something in the Air").

In addition, "Spider-Man 2—Music From and Inspired By" remixes the Lost prophets' "Lucky You," formerly available as a UK B-side, and "Give It Up," the first single from the major label debut of Mudvayne. Also in the album are two compositions by Danny Elfman: "Spider Suite" and "Doc Ock Suite."

The CD can unlock the "Spider-Mind" content of www.sonymusic.com/spider-man2/Connected.

LIFESTYLE

Top 5 life lessons I learned from a vampire slayer

Those who have watched 'Buffy' with an open heart and perceptive mind would know that it never was just a teen monster-of-the-week show

By Alison Sastre
Contributor

BUD had blond hair, a California tan, and tears flowing freely from her eyes.

"I don't care!" she said, when Rupert Giles told her she alone had the power to save the world. "I don't care!"

She yanked off the cross pendant from her neck and flung it at him.

"Giles, I'm 16 years old. I don't wanna die."

Those impatient lines struck me that I began to love, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (BVS).

Actually, "love" is too tame a word for it. I mean, I found "Ashes Y" and "The X Files." But "Ashes Y" never had me running to the phone after each episode to analyze dialogue, story arcs and characters' evolution with fellow fans, and "The X Files" never made me feel the compulsion to download each and every shooting script.

But the thing is: Last Monday night (June 28), Studio 23 aired the first of Buffy's last two episodes, and I felt an overwhelming sense of anticipation and depression.

Anticipation because I wanted to see what would happen next. And depression because I don't ever want BVS to end.

Truth is, Buffy has taught me more lessons than "Sesame Street," made me feel more emotions than I could emotionally acknowledge, and acquainted me with wonderfully complex characters I'd probably carry around inside me for the rest of my life.

Those who have watched "Buffy" with an open heart and a perceptive mind would know that it never was just a teen monster-of-the-week show.

But to everyone else who never have the chance to know her—never have an inkling about how a group of gifted writers have elevated a television series—let me just give you an idea of what you've been missing in the last seven years.

Here are the Top 5 lessons I learned from "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." (And I would've added more if I wasn't feeling so depressed.)

Lesson 1: Everyone has a purpose; a life's mission. You can deny it, you can run away from it—but you can never ignore it.

Purpose-driven living may be a fad now, but more than seven years ago a young California girl showed up on television with something that not all California teenagers had: a mission.

And it was right there, in the opening lines of her show: In every generation there is a Chosen One. She alone will stand against the vampires, the demons and the forces of darkness. She is the Slayer.

TOP 11

Top 5 life lessons I learned . . .

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Xian, she had really eaten the word "Buffy" doesn't exactly strike as a heroic or has industry), and met the wannabe of the Slayer who **inform she learned the at** til she was destined to save the world and she.

But towards the end of that period her answers – just after Buffy said she quit from being the Chosen One – Buffy saw her best friend crying, because she'd just walked into a classroom full of their classmates' bodies, massacred by vampires.

"I'm not okay," Willow told her. "I know those guys. I go to their prom every day. And when I walked in there, it... it wasn't our world anymore. They needed slaves. And they had fun."

A tear rolled down Willow's cheek. "Buffy, what are we gonna do?"

At first moment, Buffy knew 'Xa, maybe she was going to die. But no, she couldn't just walk away. The one thing she was sure of was she was the Chosen One. What was she going to do?

"What we have to," Buffy said.

And so in the last 20 minutes of Buffy's life season, the 16-year-old Slayer went out in her white doorknob gown to save the world.

Lesson 2. Fulfilling your purpose and doing the right thing does not necessarily make your life easier.

Of course, this is a lesson I'd already been learning for some time even before Bob spelled it out for me. But spell it out Buffy did, particularly in Season 2.

While in real life I was making choices about the career path I should follow, the man I was going to marry, and moving in our Christian community where my parents had other expectations from me, Buffy was being charged for her friend's murder, losing thereon one of their house by her own mother, and sacrificing the life of her first love in order to save everyone else's.

"Does it ever get easy?" Buffy once asked Giles, the Watcher who was assigned to mentor and train her.

"For you, no," Giles joked.

"Yeah. Does it get easy?"

"What do you want me to say?"

Buffy looked up at him, half-frowned tears in her eyes. "Let it me."

AFTER never kicking the ass of the undead enemies, **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** "will finally reach its conclusion.

Giles considered for a moment. "No, it isn't. It's simple." He told Buffy. "The good guys are always outnumbered and lose, the bad guys are easily distinguished by their pointy horns or black hats, and we always define them and save the day. So one ever dies, and everybody lives happily ever after."

"Lies."

Lesson 3. Love is still the most powerful force on earth.

Robert Pattinson already said it beautifully in "The Incredible Creed," but sometimes you have to see it to really feel it.

And in Buffy, love has always been the most powerful force on earth.

It's what drives a vampire to endure extreme tests to get his soul back for the chance he loves, it's what powers a slayer with enough strength to kill the unkillable demon who holds the vampire she loves, and it's what enables an ordinary man to keep the most powerful witch in history from destroying the world.

"You can't stop this," Willow told Xander, when she saw him running closer.

"Yeah, I get that," he said. "It's just, where else am I going to go? You've been my best friend my whole life. If the world's gonna end, where else would I want to be?"

Willow sniffed. "Is this the manic pixie? You're going to snap me by telling me you love me?"

"I know you're in pain." He told her, his eyes sincere. "I can't imagine the pain you're in. I know you're about to do something apocalyptically evil and stupid and hey still want to hang. You're Willow."

"Shut up!" Willow made a dashing motion in the air, and there large ears opened on Xander's face.

He stopped, winced, touched his blood. Then looked back at her. "I love you."

Willow's shoulders started to shake. "Shut up."

Finally Xander took her in his arms, and all-friend her to Buffy's city. The verse on her face disappeared, her hair turned back to her normal red. Willow, still in powerfully deep pain, was human again.

Lesson 4. There is always a battle between good and evil.

Maybe in real life we aren't find attack one for existential wrestle and awaken stakes.

But everyone does struggle with his/her personal demons, and sometimes when one of those demons defeat or overtake you, the consequences can affect the lives of others around you.

I know there are viewers who've seen Buffy's fight scenes and really branded the show as "violent." But personally I believe that the universe in Buffy is one of the most "moral" television universes I've ever encountered.

In the Buffyverse every sin has a symbolic consequence (Angel loses his soul after Buffy has premarital sex with him), every secret is eventually revealed (sometimes in a song in a musical episode), and the laws of man and nature are never to be violated without repercussions (more when you're The Slayer).

But most important, forgiveness is freely given whenever the sinner needs it (especially if your sins happened during your pre-human, pre-soul, or pre-free-will years).

Buffy shows us that although we may never see a real vampire in our lifetime, we always have a choice to live on the side of good or on the side of evil. And I can relate those we have to make every day of our lives.

Lesson 5. Finally: If you're looking for heroes in this real-world battle, the first place to look is inside yourself.

There are days when life seems hopeless. There are days when you feel like nothing you do matters, or makes a difference, and besides you just mess things up anyway.

Whenever those days come up, I always turn to the Buffy episode I love best: the episode titled "Becoming, Part 2." It's the last episode of Season 2: Buffy's friend was dead and she was unsure for her sanity; her mother had discovered her being the Slayer, her Watcher had been kidnapped and was being tortured for information, and she had to kill the monster who happened to be inside her boyfriend's body.

The same monster who had just trapped her into a corner, after a sweet fight she just lost.

"Now that's everything, huh?" Angelus smiled, as he idly pointed his sword at Buffy's neck. "No weapons, no friends, no hope."

Buffy closed her eyes, steeling herself for her fate.

"Take all that away..." Angelus continued, "and what's left?"

He drew the sword back and thrust directly at her face. But Buffy caught the blade between the palms of her hands.

She opened her eyes to meet his, and answered his question: "Me."

After which, of course, Buffy turned the blade around and they went on sword-fight overtime, **until she beat him.**

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